

Crime and romance in New Year honours

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

P D JAMES and Barbara Cartland, the authors, Ian McKellan the actor, Graham Gooch the cricketer and Lady Porter, the Conservative leader of Westminster council, are among 995 people recognised today in the New Year's honours list.

Miss James, aged 70, the doyenne of crime fiction, is the only life peer in the list drawn up by Margaret Thatcher before her resignation. Miss Cartland, aged 89, becomes a dame, as does Lady Porter.

Mr McKellan, aged 51, is made a knight. Mr Gooch's OBE will be some consolation to the England captain after his team's second successive Test defeat in Australia. Esther Rantzen, the television personality, also gets an OBE.

Among the 29 knights are James Anderton, chief constable of Greater Manchester, Terence English, the heart transplant surgeon, Paul Fox, managing director of BBC network television, Alastair Morton, chief executive of the Eurotunnel Group, and Peregrine Worsthorne, editor of the comment section of the *Sunday Telegraph*. André Benard, Sir Alastair's French counterpart in the Channel tunnel project, has been given an honorary knighthood. Brian

Johnston, of Radio 3's *Test Match Special* commentary team, is given a CBE.

An OBE is awarded to Harry Carpenter, best known for his television boxing commentaries. OBEs also go to Nigel Mansell, the racing driver, and Peter Shilton, former England football team goalkeeper. Bobby Robson, former manager of the England football team, receives a CBE, as does Raman Subba Row, the former England Test batsman and chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board.

Two middle-ranking ministers are made privy counsellors: Alan Clark, a defence minister, and Angela Rumbold, a Home Office minister. Lord Denham, the chief whip in the Lords, is given a KBE.

Tony Durant, Tory MP for Reading West, is knighted, as is Timothy Raison, a former minister and MP for Aylesbury. Richard Luce, the former arts minister, and Ian Wigglesworth, a former SDP MP.

Reluctant conformist, page 3
Full list, pages 4, 5
Scam profit, page 12
City spurs, page 21
Sporting honours, page 30



In the pink: Dame Barbara Cartland, with a pet Pekinese, yesterday, after finding that she was in the New Year's honours list

Britain sends in Tornados as Iraq prepares for war

By JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD AND ANDREW McEWEN AND MICHAEL EVANS

BRITAIN is to underline its readiness to use force in the Gulf by sending more jet fighters to complete an extra squadron. Half of the RAF's nuclear-capable Tornado GR1 strike aircraft will be deployed in the Gulf by the end of this week.

Iraq appeared last night to be in a belligerent mood with a string of statements preparing its people for war. A televised new year message from President Saddam Hussein said President Bush had betrayed the teachings of Christ in the same way that Judas betrayed Jesus, and called King Fahd of Saudi Arabia a traitor to Islam.

Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, said that President

Bush must have been drunk when he said he had a feeling Saddam would withdraw from Kuwait by the January 15 deadline. Iraq summoned Islamic clerics from 17 nations to Baghdad from January 9 to discuss a Muslim holy war in response to any attack against Iraqi forces. Baghdad also threatened to attack American interests throughout the world if war broke out.

The tough talk was not taken literally in London. Tom King, the defence secretary, said: "I do not think he [Saddam] is a madman. I think he is a very calculating person indeed and I think he is trying to bluff his way out."

Britain has decided to reduce the number of its diplomats in Baghdad. Harold Walker, the British ambassador to Iraq, will return to the embassy today after talks in London to decide which of his 15 colleagues should come home. A Mori poll conducted for Times Newspapers showed 66 per cent would support the use of force if Iraq did not withdraw from Kuwait by the deadline, while 24 per cent were opposed.

Concern that some European Community countries may be wavering over the use of force increased when Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, called for further diplomatic efforts. The 12 EC nations are to hold an emergency foreign ministers' meeting on Friday, after separate initiatives by Herr Genscher and the French government. Foreign ministers from Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia will meet in Jeddah at the same time.

Mr King welcomed the EC meeting, but it is likely that Britain will again argue against any proposal for talks between the EC and Mr Aziz. Britain successfully opposed an earlier proposal for talks on the ground that it would send the wrong message to Baghdad. It was hoped that this would encourage Iraq to accept dates proposed by Washington for talks between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and President Saddam, but with no agreement in sight Italy and Spain appear to be having second

thoughts and Germany's position is ambiguous. "In such a very difficult phase it is necessary to give diplomacy its chance in the search for peaceful solutions," Herr Genscher said.

However in Bonn a foreign ministry spokesman said no new initiative on talks was expected. The meeting would send a signal to Washington and Iraq that the EC fully backs UN resolutions.

It is unclear whether the meeting will consider a proposal which the Iraqi foreign ministry put to Western diplomats in Baghdad last week. It suggested that President Saddam would be willing in principle to withdraw his forces from Kuwait if he first received assurances from the US that Iraq's strong military and oil-producing roles would not be significantly diminished.

Britain has been building up its bomber squadrons in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The latest squadron, which has been deployed over several weeks, will be based in Saudi Arabia. There are already Tornado GR1 squadrons at Tabuk in western Saudi Arabia and in Bahrain. These are "re-inforced" squadrons, with more strike aircraft deployed than the usual 12 per squadron. With the final batch of Tornado GR1s arriving this week, there are expected to be more than 50 in the Gulf.

In the event of an allied offensive, the Tornados could be among the first bombers sent to strike at Iraqi air bases. They are capable of dropping nuclear free-fall bombs, but there is no suggestion that they have been deployed to the Gulf area with nuclear payloads. Their principal weapon system is the JP233 "airfield denial" bomb which craters runways and scatters delayed action bombs to hamper enemy engineering repair teams.

The RAF also has a squadron of Jaguar strike aircraft based in Bahrain and 1½ squadrons of Tornado F3 air defence aircraft at Dhahran.

Most of oil, page 9
Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13



Classified Gulf file is stolen

By MICHAEL EVANS AND ANDREW McEWEN

THE ministry of defence is investigating the theft from the boot of a ministry car of a briefcase full of classified documents on the Gulf.

Tom King, the defence secretary, confirmed yesterday that there had been a security breach and said it was "a serious matter". He refused to discuss reports that the papers had been used by Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine (above), joint forces commander of Operation Granby, to brief John Major on Britain's Gulf deployments.

However, the car was on its way from Downing Street to RAF Strike Command headquarters when it was broken into while unattended. "There was a security breach which involved the theft of classified documents; they have all been recovered but it is a serious matter," Mr King said on the BBC Radio 4 programme *The World This Weekend*.

The papers were retrieved after a member of the public saw a briefcase in a builder's skip in north London. The case had been in the car boot with other items. It was handed to police and the papers were found inside, apparently intact. When asked if he was satisfied that British interests in the Gulf had not been damaged, Mr King said: "It has obviously

Continued on page 20, col 2

'Shoot to kill' claim after man dies near border

By STAFF REPORTERS

ONE man died and another was injured when the security forces opened fire on a car in South Armagh "bandit country" last night in the first fatal Northern Ireland shooting since the IRA Christmas ceasefire.

Police said the incident took place near Cullybanna, about two miles from the border and three miles from the provisional IRA stronghold of Crossmaglen. Local people said that the shooting happened when the car containing the two men, both civilians, had been stopped at an army checkpoint and had been allowed to go on before being hit by at least 12 shots. There were immediate calls for a full and independent investigation into the shooting, which one MP claimed happened in "highly dubious" circumstances.

The death was the first since the IRA declared a 72-hour truce between Christmas Eve and Boxing Day, which finished 20 minutes after midnight when the IRA opened fire on a police vehicle checkpoint, although nobody was hurt.

Jim McAllister, Sinn Féin local councillor, said he had been speaking to the two men shortly before the incident. He said there had been reports of army harassment of local people over the Christmas period and added: "We were fearful something like this might happen. It is absolutely essential that an independent investigation is held into this incident and that the Police Complaints Commission appoint one of its members immediately to oversee the investigation."

There has been a series of deaths and incidents at checkpoints over the years. In September two teenage joyriders were shot dead by members of the Parachute Regiment when they failed to stop. It was the 10th time in 10 years that joyriders had been killed by the army in West Belfast.

Meanwhile, a policeman suffered back and leg injuries in Lisburn, County Antrim, yesterday when he was deliberately rammed against a wall by a car. Three incendiary devices exploded in Belfast early yesterday but caused little damage.

Mr Mallon said that Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, must ensure that "those soldiers who were responsible are removed from

Snow and gales sweep the North

By DAVID YOUNG AND KERRY GILL

SEVERE winter weather continued to affect Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North of England and Wales yesterday with most other parts of the country hit by icy roads. The London Weather Centre predicts that temperatures will rise slightly in the next few days.

Northwest England, Wales and the whole of Northern Ireland were bearing the brunt of the bad weather, with heavy showers turning to snow on higher ground and strong to near gale force winds.

A woman was recovering in hospital on the Scottish mainland last night after rescue services fought a six-hour battle against atrocious weather to bring her to safety from her island home.

A doctor decided that Rosemary Neil, aged 27, who lives on the Hebridean island of Rhum, needed urgent hospital treatment after she suffered serious cuts to her hand and wrist. Two helicopters were unable to reach the island because of the conditions and she was eventually taken off by the Mallaig lifeboat.

On the mainland, a

Continued on page 20, col 7

THE TIMES NEW YEAR

Divided we stand

Most Scots celebrate the new year with, shall we say, more enthusiasm than the English. Alan Hamilton gives a sober assessment of more significant differences on both sides of the border

PAGE 12

Anniversaries of the year



From William Caxton, printer (above), to Henry Miller, writer, *The Times* anniversaries of 1991 reveal the key landmarks to come

PAGE 16

Levin mortal? Oh surely not

Perhaps it is just the time of year. Should we be reading his column, or his obit? Even he seems unsure

TOMORROW

You said it there, Brian

"We failed Tebbitt's cricket test and we're proud of it" said a banner at an England-India match last summer, just one of the sporting quotes of 1990. Plus a round-up of the big new year sporting programme

TOMORROW

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TOMORROW

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INSIDE

Major fails to lift gloom

Margaret Thatcher's resignation has done little to lift the economic gloom. The "misery index" - the difference between those expecting the economy to improve and those who think it will worsen - stands at minus 20, making an election before the autumn unlikely

Page 2

Tory threat, Page 20

England beaten



Graham Gooch, awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours, led England to an eight-wicket defeat in the second Test against Australia in Melbourne yesterday

Page 30

China reacts

Peking, unnerved by the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, has pledged to strengthen ideological and political work to "re-energise the national spirit"

Page 11

Fees slump

Merchant banking fees for company takeovers and mergers fell to £180 million this year from £800 million in 1989. The value of acquisitions fell 77 per cent to £11.9 billion

Page 21

INDEX

Arts	17
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Court & social	14
Crosswords	15, 20
Education	24
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Obituaries	14
TV & radio	19
Weather	20

Those Italian mamas lose their family crown

From PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

ONE of the most classic and enduring Italian stereotypes, the family blessed with a multitude of children, has been dealt a shattering blow. A report by the Italian Statistics Institute confirms that Italy during the past few years has had the world's lowest birthrate.

The myth of the Italian mother surrounded by a platoon of squalling infants, dear to the hearts of northern Europeans, may die hard, but the fact remains that even the avant garde Scandinavians are producing more babies than the Italians.

Today Italian women on average have 1.29 children each, compared to

1.85 in Britain and 2.11 in the Republic of Ireland, the most prolific of the European Community countries. German women produce an average of 1.39 children, the French have 1.81, and the Danes 1.62.

Italy reached zero population growth a couple of years ago. Instead of levelling off, however, it has since begun to shrink dramatically. This alarms the country's economists, who fear that a swelling proportion of pensioners will have to be supported by a shrinking proportion of workers. It has also prompted the Catholic Church repeatedly to call on the government to adopt fiscal policies that encourage parenthood.

Catholic authorities long ago lost

their battles against both divorce and abortion, which were legalised in Italy in the Seventies. All the usual types of birth control are freely available and recent surveys show that most Catholic Italians do not see the use of contraception as a serious breach of their church's teaching.

The official statistics also confirm what observers have been noticing for some time: Italians are spending money as never before. According to the statistics institute report, they are third in terms of purchasing power after the Germans and French, but richer than the British, even though the gross domestic product of the two countries is about equal.

The report also says that Italians

seem to have unlimited funds for luxury goods of all kinds, as well as for entertainment and exotic holidays. Italy is one of the world's biggest markets for French champagne, Scotch whisky and Rolls-Royce cars, and a growing proportion of the population takes a winter holiday in expensive resorts.

Yet culture is not growing along with affluence. *Corriere Della Sera*, the sober Milan daily, suggests that there is a slightly vulgar, nouveau-riche quality in the new spending patterns of Italians. It points out that sales of books and newspapers remain the lowest among the big European countries, while sales of colour television sets have rocketed.

Rushdie urges political action

By WILLIAM CASH

SALMAN Rushdie has called on politicians to lead the way in finding a solution to end the controversy surrounding his book *The Satanic Verses*.

The author said that now his Islamic conversion had received the blessing of Grand Sheikh Gad El-Hak, in Cairo, the spiritual leader of Sunni Muslims, the controversy was effectively over.

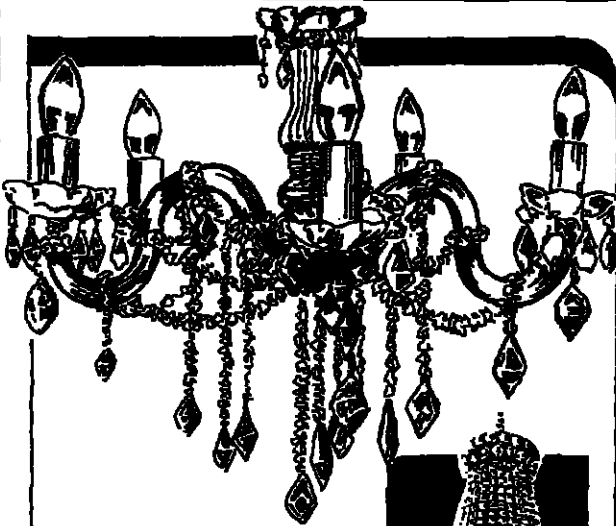
In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Rushdie urged Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour party, to keep to his word after saying that a decision not to publish the book in paperback would be a sufficient gesture for a process of reconciliation.

Mr Rushdie said that he would speak to any politician in the hope of bringing the

affair to a close, and said that his decision not to publish in paperback was a remarkable break in the clouds.

Mr Rushdie said that he was eager to visit Cairo to meet the Grand Sheikh whenever an invitation was issued and he expressed his gratitude to President Mubarak of Egypt.

Rushdie call, page 3



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Labour ahead as Major fails to lift gloom over economy

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher's replacement by John Major has done little to lift the gloom surrounding the country's economic prospects for 1991, according to the latest Mori poll for Times Newspapers.

The "misery index" — the difference between the percentage of people expecting the economy to improve over the next 12 months and those who think it will get worse — stands at minus 20, only fractionally better than in October, when Mrs Thatcher was still prime minister.

The figures show that the sudden surge in economic optimism in the wake of British membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism and the parallel 1 per cent cut in interest rates has evaporated.

The index is one of the best clues to voting intentions. Tory strategists will be dismayed that the lift that the new prime minister has given to the government's standing has not extended to the electorally vital area of the economy. On the strength of these figures, the Conservatives will be unlikely to want to risk an election before the autumn at the earliest.

The poll suggests that Mr Major's electoral honeymoon is coming to an end. After surveys soon after the change of leadership showing the Tories as much as 11 points ahead, it gives Labour a four-point lead, the first time the party has been ahead in any survey since Mr Major became prime minister. The figures are: Labour 45 per cent, Conservative 41 per cent, Liberal Democrat 9 per cent, Green 2 per cent, and others 3 per cent.

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, took comfort in the fact that the gap between the two main parties was smaller than in Mrs Thatcher's last months. "We had an enormous Labour lead for 18 months or so. That has now gone. Labour are left arguing among themselves about whether or not it's time to say what a Labour government would actually do," he said on Radio 4's *The World This Week*.

The survey also shows high public concern over unemployment and living standards. With economic forecasters predicting a jobless total between two million and 2.5 million next year, almost three in four people think that dole queues will lengthen in 1991. More people also think that their standard of living will fall.

Levels of public optimism about unemployment, living standards and inflation are at their lowest December levels for four years. Conservative voters are the only group out of 38 identified by

Mori who record a plus score on the misery index.

Mr Major will, however, take comfort from the dent that he has made in the popularity of Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader. Last month, people were evenly divided about whether he was doing a good job. Now, 37 per cent are satisfied with his performance and 51 per cent dissatisfied. This is the Labour leader's worst personal rating for 21 months.

Defence, perhaps not surprisingly with war looming in the Gulf, is one of the issues of most concern to the public. It was named by 29 per cent of electors, the same as the poll tax. Next comes the health service. Twenty-three per cent were concerned about the economy, 22 per cent about unemployment and 17 per cent about inflation.

Mr Mori interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,103 adults aged 18-plus in 54 constituencies throughout Great Britain. Interviews were conducted face to face on December 27-28. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population.

Willis calls for end to class war at work

By STAFF REPORTERS

UNIONS and management are given a warning today that they stand a better chance of withstanding the recession and surviving and prospering if they work together.

In a New Year message to trade unionists, Norman Willis, the TUC's general secretary, says that immediate prospects for the economy are grim, with unemployment certain to rise steeply. "Now is not the time for class warriors on either side to be locked into an historic conflict over allocation of fast-disappearing spoils which will only destroy their own and their colleagues' jobs. We can no longer afford the luxury of ignoring each other's problems."

He says that in the most successful economies in Europe there was much greater co-operation between unions and management. "It will be far better for management in Britain to take workers into their confidence and to start discussing problems together rather than wait for them to be forced on them from Europe." Unions had to be more aware of the problems facing management while making sure that they were in tune with the changing needs of members.

Save the Children: The first few weeks of 1991 will be critical in deciding whether it will be a year of hope or despair for 15 million people facing famine in the Horn of Africa, according to the charity Save the Children. Today it calls on governments and the public to give a New Year's pledge to support famine relief efforts there.

The charity's 1991 message is issued as a calendar which charts the sequence of misery facing the people of Sudan and Ethiopia. By March or April large numbers of people will be dying not from starvation but from illness caused by exhaustion and persistent hunger. The report says that food shortages are already severe and "the urgency of the situation



Death crash: A police forensic officer examining the wreckage of a car in which five rugby friends died yesterday after smashing head-on into a stone wall as they drove home from a

night out. Fire crews had to slice the roof off the car to retrieve the bodies. The accident happened as the youngsters drove along a straight road in near-perfect conditions at Blaenau, near

Cardigan, West Wales. A Dyfed Powys police spokesman said: "Fire crews were called to cut them free, but it appears they were killed almost instantly. They were taken to hospital in

Aberystwyth where they were pronounced dead." The driver of the car was named by police as Calvin Davies, aged 17, of Llangedmor, Cardigan. His passengers, aged between 20 and

23, were David Lewis, also from Llangedmor, Barry Jones from Blaenau, Cardigan, Hugh Nicholas from Tan-y-groes, Cardigan, and Dylan Davies from Baulah, Newcastle Emlyn.

Drug eases transplant operation

A PAINKILLING drug normally used during childbirth enabled a lung transplant patient to be alert and coherent within hours of his operation, surgeons at Bradford Royal Infirmary said yesterday (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The surgical team that carried out the single lung transplant on Peter Cromie, aged 57, inserted a fine tube into his chest through which they passed the drug bupivacaine, often used in epidural injections during labour. The drug is a powerful and long-lasting painkiller that allows the patient to remain alert, unlike traditional post-operative drugs.

Alan Means, consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at Bradford Royal Infirmary, said: "As far as we are aware, this is the first time this technique, which releases a solution that acts on the nerves to block pain, has been used with a transplant patient."

Mr Cromie, who has been forced to give up work because of emphysema, was able to hold his wife's hand and discuss plans for going home within six weeks. The donor lung came from a young woman involved in a road traffic accident. She has not been named.

Just a second! It's not quite 1991 yet

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

REVELLERS will have to wait a fraction longer for the arrival of the New Year tonight. The reason is that an extra second is being added to 1990 to bring the earth's rotation back into proper synchrony with time measured by super-accurate atomic clocks.

So New Year's eve, which often feels like the longest day of the year, will this year be precisely that: 86,401 seconds instead of the normal 86,400. The BBC, which has now taken responsibility for generating the "pips" that mark the time, will add a seventh pip to the usual six as the old year finally slips away.

Leap seconds have recently become almost an annual event. With the exception of three years — 1984, 1986, and 1987 — they have been inserted every year since the practice began in 1972. This will be the sixteenth time since then.

Leap seconds are needed in order to counter the slowing down of the rotation of the earth, which is caused by winds, tides, and the internal motions of the earth's core. Compared with modern atomic clocks, which are based on the disintegrations of atoms of

caesium-133, the earth is a poor timekeeper. Atomic clocks are accurate to a billionth of a second a day, while the earth is consistent to only one thousandth of a second a day.

The real problem, however, is not the earth's variability, or any recent dramatic slowing of its rotation, but the fact that when the second was redefined in 1967 in terms of atomic disintegrations, its length was based on old observations dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries. This meant that the second as measured by atomic clocks was made equal to an actual second of about the year 1826.

Since then, the earth has slowed, and the length of the day has increased by 0.0023 seconds. Over a year, that adds up to almost a full second, so all things being equal, a leap second has to be added most years to bring things back into step.

The organisation responsible for taking the decision that a leap second is inserted is the International Earth Rotation Service, in Paris. More than 100 atomic clocks around the world will be adjusted at local times corresponding to midnight GMT.

At the US Naval Observatory in Washington DC, for example, the extra second will be inserted at 6:59:60pm eastern time, according to Dennis McCarthy, head of the division responsible for measuring the earth's rotation.

Does it matter? To most of us, a second is neither here nor there. It is important, though, to scientists and navigators that clocks should remain in close synchronisation with the rotation of the earth.

"If you're navigating," says Dr McCarthy, "a one-second mistake could put your position at sea off by about a quarter of a mile." And if the errors were allowed to accumulate year after year, they would soon reach serious proportions.

Harman sees care threat to elderly

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SERIOUS financial difficulties threaten a growing number of people who run private residential and nursing homes for the elderly, the Labour party says today.

The problems have arisen because of the large expansion during the last decade in private provision for the elderly. Labour says that the gap between income support provided by the government to home residents eligible for the benefit and the fees charged by homes is causing worry for

families and financial difficulties for owners. Harriet Harman, the shadow health minister, said that families or charities had to make up the shortfall or, in some cases, homeowners subsidised elderly people. She feared, however, that the quality of care might suffer with fewer staff being employed and cheaper food provided.

Council and Care for the Elderly, an advisory service, estimates that the gap between income support and the cost of a place in residential care is £17 a week in London and up to £70 per week outside London. It had

3,000 enquiries last year from people who had difficulties meeting the difference between the benefit and fees.

According to Ms Harman's figures, the number of beds in private residential or nursing homes for the elderly in England increased from 39,253 to 135,457 between 1981 and 1989, but the number of beds in local authority homes and in voluntary homes have fallen.

Ms Harman said that the figures showed that privatisation "by stealth" was taking place in the provision of care for the elderly.

Irradiation of herbs heralds campaign to cut poisoning

HERBS and spices are likely to be the first products to undergo irradiation and be offered for sale to the public after the 23-year-old ban on the commercial use of this much-debated method of preserving and disinfecting food is lifted tomorrow.

The government and most scientists believe irradiation could greatly reduce food poisoning, but consumers might have a hard time finding any irradiated produce. None of the leading supermarket chains plans to stock any and several of the big food companies have said they will not use the technique.

Isotron, which runs five of the 10 irradiation plants in Britain from its headquarters in Swindon, Wiltshire, is undeterred by the lack of interest. The firm, hitherto involved mainly in sterilising medical equipment, plans to apply for a licence to treat food.

"We will apply initially for herbs and spices. We already have some business lined up with food processors. After that we might look at poultry and beyond that seafood," John Barker, Isotron's managing director, said. "The aim would be to get the process established first and accepted by consumers."

The World Health Organisation believes irradiation will come to be seen in time as being

Scientists have endorsed irradiation of food, but doctors and environmental officers are wary.

Where do the consumers stand? Michael Hornsby finds out the facts

as normal as freezing and will be of "enormous value" in checking the growth of food-borne disease. It has advised consumers to buy irradiated poultry meat where that is available.

In Britain, scientists overwhelmingly favour irradiation but consumer groups, food safety activists, doctors, environmental health officers and the Labour party have voiced varying degrees of opposition. They question the safety of the process and say that it could be misused to disguise stale food.

Fruit (including fungi, tomatoes and rhubarb), vegetables (including pulses), cereals, bulbs and tubers (including potatoes, yams, onions, shallots and garlic), spices and condiments, fish and shellfish, and poultry (including chickens, geese, ducks, guinea fowls, pigeons, quails and tur-

keys) will be eligible for treatment. Manufacturers and food processors will have to apply for a separate licence for each category of foodstuff and for each irradiation plant. Detailed records will have to be kept of the radiation dose and the condition of the food before treatment. Any such foodstuff sold in shops will have to be labelled "irradiated" or "treated with ionizing radiation".

Restaurants and takeaways will be required to warn customers that they may be eating irradiated fare. "We recognise that restaurants may not always know whether or not some ingredients

in food have been irradiated," the agriculture ministry said. "When they are not sure they must indicate on the menu or some other prominent place that the food may have been treated."

Irradiation is legally permitted in 35 countries and used commercially in about 20, including the United States, France, Belgium and The Netherlands. Foodstuffs are passed through a radiation field, usually generated by a cobalt or caesium gamma ray source, at a set speed to control the amount of energy absorbed.

Herbs and spices, which are left to dry in the sun after harvest, are

the most obvious candidates for treatment. The most widely used means of decontaminating them up to now has been ethylene oxide, a gas which leaves a residue that can be carcinogenic. It will be illegal in Britain from tomorrow to sell spices (other than existing stocks) that have been treated in this way.

Irradiation is the main alternative means of treatment, and shops may have no choice but to stock irradiated herbs and spices. Two supermarket groups, Sainsbury and Tesco, said yesterday, however, that they were investigating alternative heat

treatments with their suppliers. One criticism of the government's decision to permit irradiation rests on the absence of an easy test by which environmental health and trading standards officers can detect whether food has been treated. That, it is said, will make the elaborate controls and labelling regulations difficult, if not impossible, to enforce.

David Clark, the Labour party's agriculture spokesman, said yesterday: "I am very concerned that consumers will not have the protection they deserve against potential abuse." He said a survey of 14 local authorities had found much unease about their ability to monitor compliance with the regulations.

Other criticisms are that there is insufficient data about vitamin losses caused by irradiation and the effects of the process on pesticide residues in food and on the chemicals in food packaging.

The government has never suggested that irradiation is a panacea. The process affects the taste and/or smell of dairy products and some other fatty foods. Irradiated products will also cost more than untreated foods, and supply will be limited for a long time. All the irradiation plants in the world could not process more than 2 per cent of Britain's total food needs.

Unfit food sellers face jail and fine

SELLING unfit food will become an offence punishable by up to two years in prison and unlimited fines from tomorrow when the Food Safety Act comes into force. The act is regarded as the biggest revision of food legislation in more than 30 years.

Among the more immediate benefits for consumers will be tougher rules on the date-marking of food in shops. For perishable goods, such as dairy products and fresh meat and poultry, "sell-by" dates will be

phased out by April and replaced by more precise "use-by" dates.

The Consumers' Association welcomed the change yesterday but warned shoppers that during the three-month transitional period both "sell-by" and "use-by" dates could be used, creating the risk of confusion. Foods with a longer shelf life must carry "best before" labels.

Other provisions of the Food Safety Act are: powers for environmental health officers to close suspect food premises with-

out seeking a court order; compulsory registration of food premises with local authorities and compulsory training in food hygiene for food handlers.

There will be ministerial powers to license food irradiation and other novel processes; food retailers and manufacturers will be required to show they have taken all reasonable steps to ensure safety of their products; and catering at prisons, civil service buildings and military bases will lose Crown immunity.

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today British Heart Foundation launches a campaign to encourage everyone to make taking more exercise their new year resolution. Revellers gather in traditional manner to see the old year out in Trafalgar Square.

Tomorrow Campaign for Freedom of Information issues a report calling for safety researchers to be allowed access to inquest records. A sale of watches in Bond Street is expected to realise £10 million.

Wednesday Christmas and new year drink-driving statistics are released. Geographers are in Sheffield for their institute conference.

Thursday International Boat Show opens at Ears Court. The Royal Life Saving Society announces plans for its centenary year.

Friday Harrods' new year sale begins.

Saturday Scottish rugby trials are held at Murrayfield, and the Mallusk international cross-country race is run in Belfast.

Sunday The prime minister is to be interviewed by David Frost on TV-am. Sadler's Wells celebrates its 60th anniversary.

MP supports John Taylor

Sir Charles Irving, Conservative MP for Cheltenham, has criticised "uninformed speculation" about the local party's choice of John Taylor, a black lawyer, as prospective parliamentary candidate.

Sir Charles, in a letter to all 4,000 Conservative party members in Cheltenham, dismissed allegations that the selection committee was pressurised by Conservative Central Office. Although many people wanted a local candidate, he said, only one had reached final interviews before withdrawing for personal reasons.

His letter was sent as Tory rebels announced they had raised enough votes to reconvene the meeting that picked Mr Taylor.

Prisoner caught

One of five prisoners who failed to return to jail last Thursday after Christmas parole has been recaptured, the Northern Ireland Office said yesterday. A spokesman said the man was found by the RUC and returned to Magilligan prison in Co Londonderry. A police hunt is continuing for the other missing men, all of whom were due for release during 1991, one of them next month.

Wife disappears

An intensive search was being carried out yesterday for a soldier's wife missing from her Army camp home at Thorney Island, West Sussex. Mrs Jennifer Howe, aged 45, disappeared at 2am on Friday wearing a pink tracksuit and mauve coat. Police and rescue helicopters have joined soldiers searching mud flats and undergrowth surrounding the base.

Royal bouquets

Princes William and Harry were kept busy at Sandringham yesterday ferrying flowers given to their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, to a royal limousine. When the royal family left church after morning service, 40 young people were waiting to greet them with bunches of flowers. The princes dashed back and forth carrying the flowers to the boot of the car.

Rushdie calls for support from all political leaders

By WILLIAM CASH

SALMAN Rushdie yesterday called for government and opposition leaders to put their political weight behind him now that his conversion to the Muslim faith has received a formal blessing from Gad el-Haq Ali G, a spiritual head of the world's Sunni Muslims.

Mr Rushdie singled out Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour party, as a man he thought might now be moved to make a positive political move. Mr Rushdie has confirmed that he is eager to visit Egypt to meet the highest Islamic scholars, although he is still waiting to receive a formal invitation from the Grand Sheikh Gad el-Haq, of the al-Azhar university and religious centre in Cairo.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Rushdie said that the enmity will begin now to be replaced by a language of affection and love. He emphasised that the importance of the al-Azhar confirmation was that a situation had arisen where positive steps were now being made on both sides.

"It is my hope that I don't have to do this entirely by myself and that all those interested parties which obviously include political groups that have influence should at least welcome what has happened and seek to help the process of understanding."

He said that Mr Hattersley had "always said that I was to give up the paperback [of Mr Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses*] that would be a sufficient gesture in his view, and one would hope that now that I have done so he would now lend his support to the process

of reconciliation that is now taking place."

Mr Rushdie said that while it was up to individual politicians to choose what form of help to take, he would now talk to anyone, including senior members of the government, in an attempt to bring an end to the affair as soon as possible.

He thought the formal blessing forgiving any past sins from the Grand Sheikh Gad el-Haq was an extraordinary event. He wanted to emphasise to people in the West that the grand sheikh represented the supreme theological authority on Islamic matters for all Sunni Muslims.

"That makes him the supreme authority for over 90 per cent of the world's Muslims, and I think for him to have done this does effectively end the crisis. A very remarkable break in the clouds has taken place today with the statement from the grand sheikh and I would like to ask all British Muslims to listen to what the sheikh has to say and

find it in their hearts to be as generous as he has been."

Mr Rushdie was confident that that would be the case. He said newspaper polls indicated that more than 90 per cent of British Muslims had indicated no interest in further campaigns of violence or intimidation and no interest in threats of death.

Mr Rushdie said he thought that all Sunni Muslims would find the statement from Egypt of colossal importance and hoped that all parties could come together in a joint effort of reconciliation.

"I hope this means we will be able to start the new year by turning the page and making a fresh start. The fact that he has said he would welcome meeting me at al-Azhar with the blessing of President Mubarak [of Egypt] is just overwhelming for me because it is something that I have been hoping would happen two years ago."

At the weekend, Muslim leaders of the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs denounced Mr Rushdie's conversion as a "disgraceful ploy" to save his skin and said that if his faith was genuine he should withdraw *The Satanic Verses* completely.

Mr Rushdie argued, however, that people should be able to read the book to see for themselves.

"I don't believe I have betrayed anyone," Mr Rushdie said. "It seems to me that I have been fighting rather hard from a position of great precariousness and if anyone thinks they could do better they should come and stand in my shoes and have a try themselves."



Rushdie: time now to make a new start

Plea for diet action to stem heart toll

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN could have saved more than a million lives over the past 15 years if more decisive action had been taken to persuade people to change their diets, the Coronary Prevention Group claimed yesterday.

Since 1975 the death toll from heart disease in the United States has been more than halved, according to the group's director, Mike O'Connor. "A similar government-backed programme in Britain would mean at least 85,000 lives a year could be saved," he said. "The government's reaction to the problem has been totally inadequate."

Heart disease kills someone in Britain every three minutes and accounts for a third of all premature deaths in men and one in seven premature deaths in women. Almost 170,000 people die of it every year, costing the NHS at least £500 million, according to the group.

"Heart disease is a national tragedy affecting 500 people and their families every day," Mr O'Connor said. "Too many people in this country are eating their way to an early grave when they could be choosing a healthy diet."

Mr O'Connor said that only £10 million was being spent annually in preventing heart disease, and only 30 per cent of district health authorities provided formal rehabilitation programmes for heart patients.

Hunt for missing Marcos silver

By JOHN SHAW

ABOUT 70 solid silver dinner plates belonging to the late President Marcos of the Philippines are being sought by officials selling a collection of art treasures in New York on January 10-11.

The plates went astray from a magnificent 185-piece Egrement dinner service bought by Mrs Imelda Marcos from a dealer after it made £260,000 at Christie's in London in March 1979. The dinner service was made by the renowned silversmith Paul Storr in 1806-7 and was used by Marcos at the Malacanang Palace in Manila.

After the couple fell from power officials cataloguing their prodigious hoard of art found that the plates were missing.

The service, made for George, third Earl of Egrement (1751-1837), one of the wealthiest and most cultivated noblemen of his day, will be a highlight of the couple's silver collection being auctioned by Christie's together with more



Imelda Marcos: £5 million auction on her plate

than 70 Old Masters. Christie's has held two sales of Marcos property on behalf of the Aquino government, but this latest sale promises to be the biggest. It is expected to make £5 million, which will go towards agrarian reform and earthquake relief in the Philippines.

The couple also owned the Craven service of about 100 items made by the Crespells for the sixth Lord Craven between 1766 and 1772.

Among other pieces on offer will be silver and silver gilt from well-known names of the Georgian period: Paul De Lamerie, Benjamin Smith, Digby Scott and Simon Pantin.

The sale could earn Mrs Marcos a place in auction history for the largest single-owner sale of antique silver. The record is held by the Patinos, whose collection made \$2.39 million (£1.25 million) at Christie's in 1986.

The most important among the Marcos paintings is an early Raphael of St Catherine, one of the few left in private hands. It has been dated to about 1503. The collection also includes a selection of Italian 18th century pictures, among them works by Gianantonio Guardi and Francesco Guardi, Tiepolo and his son Giandomenico, Pietro Longhi, and a group of landscapes by Zuccarelli and Zais.

The property is being recovered by the Philippines commission on good government. Still missing are a number of Impressionist and modern works, including paintings by Monet, Renoir and Picasso.

Silent 40 begin third year in isolation

By KERRY GILL

FORTY men and women, living in isolation close to the Eskdalemuir forest in Dumfriesshire, will rise at 3.45 tomorrow to spend their waking hours in prayer and contemplation. They are unaware of the impending conflict in the Gulf and of the increasing tensions in the Soviet Union.

It will be another two years and three months before they emerge from a seclusion that began 21 months ago. The group is almost half-way through a four-year retreat at the Samye Ling Tibetan Buddhist centre in the Scottish Borders. The spartan existence, devoted almost entirely to meditation, becomes more strict as time goes on.

Tom McCarthy, a staff member at the centre, said: "They are living like Trappist monks. Conditions become stricter. Every few months there is a quarter turn of the screw. At present they are going through a period of total silence and isolation. They know nothing about the change of prime minister, the threat of war in the Gulf or other world news." Most of the people

in retreat, who come from a cross-section of nationalities and social and professional backgrounds, were involved in the building and decoration of the centre's huge, vibrantly coloured temple, constructed in traditional Tibetan style. It took nine years to complete by ten monks and nuns helped by lay people. It cost £100,000.

Those in the retreat house, overlooking the temple, are undergoing a gradual process of mind training, based on a structured programme evolved by Buddhist. Apart from meditation and prayer, they take part in physical exercises and listen to traditional Tibetan music.

The men and women, who are separated, have their simple meals prepared and served by attendants. Their only contact with the outside world is through their mentor, Lama Yeshe Lotsal, who has recently completed a course attended by about 50 other students at the centre on the "seven points of mind training".

Veronika Player, now known as Ani Taultrim Zangmo or "excellent moral woman", spent four years in retreat as preparation for her life as a nun. "It

takes great determination to embark on such a lengthy period of isolation. Those taking part should end up knowing themselves better and with more compassion for others," she said. While much of their life is spent in contemplation, the members of the community-run workshops, including a printing plant, have formed a charity to help the poor.

The venerable Akong Tulku Rinpoche, one of the exiled monks who established the Samye Ling centre in 1967, is the abbot. He fled from Tibet in 1959 after the Chinese communist occupation, but has temporarily returned to run the equivalent of a soup kitchen.

The monks and nuns welcome visitors as long as they give advance notification. Dr Rinpoche first settled in Oxford but moved to Eskdalemuir where they had often visited the old Johnstone House community. That venture failed and Dr Rinpoche and his colleagues took it over to form the first Tibetan Buddhist centre in the West.

Alan Hamilton, page 12

New Year Honours

Many parts: Sir Ian McKellen in *The Alchemist* in 1977, campaigning in 1989, and as Hitler in *Countdown to War* in 1989

Knighthood for McKellen the reluctant conformist

By DAVID YOUNG

SIR Ian McKellen is being seen as the first of a new generation of actor knights by his colleagues, an appropriate role, given his regard for predecessors such as Lord Olivier.

Sir Ian will also, however, see the award as a recognition for his campaigning for other causes, such as gay rights and government funding for the arts. Sir Ian, who is 51, has always been a reluctant conformist. He was the head boy at Bolton School who spent his spare time playing Shakespeare rather than rugby and was a founder member of the collective Actors' Company, which went into the Royal Shakespeare Company.

He swung towards the Establishment earlier this year, when, he was announced as the second Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at St Catherine's College, Oxford, the successor to Stephen Sondheim.

He enjoyed the irony, saying: "It amuses me rather than anything that this gay man, who seems to irritate the Establishment no end because he goes on marches and makes speeches and has campaigned against VAT on theatre tickets and is constantly challenging the government to have a proper attitude towards the arts, should suddenly be called Professor McKellen."

Sir Ian has a history of taking on extra burdens. The London benefit performances of *Acting Shakespeare* were arranged after an exhausting American tour in order to salvage the foundering London Lighthouse Aids hospice project, with the charity benefiting by £300,000.

Sir Ian led the National Theatre on its global tour last year. He said that he would come back to the South Bank, where he was one of the main fixtures in the Eighties, on condition that he could tour for a year. He won acclaim, and offstage carried with him a patrician air of leadership and a concern for the unity and welfare of his troupe.

Much of Sir Ian's career has been spent on the road. It was with the old Prospect touring company that he first electrified audiences with his Richard II. He founded the touring Actors' Company in the Seventies, and at the RSC he revived the community touring of towns and villages.



Leech: a philanthropist who died eight days ago

actor with the RSC. Marius Goring, who has been made a CBE, has been active on stage for more than half a century and enjoyed considerable success in the Sixties and Seventies as a mild-mannered but tenacious forensic scientist in a television series, *The Expert*. He was vice-president of Equity, the actors' union, from 1975 to 1982 and recently led a successful campaign to have its 12-year ban on the export of television and radio programmes to South Africa lifted.

A multi-millionaire businessman and philanthropist awarded a knighthood in today's honours list died eight days ago (Richard Ford writes). William Leech, aged 90, a publicity-shy Tyneside builder, had given millions of pounds to a variety of causes and was given the honour for his charitable services.

Honours list, pages 4-5

Poll reveals a public deeply disillusioned

THE British public is deeply disillusioned with the honours system and believes that most honours are awarded to those who least deserve them (Lin Jenkins writes).

In an opinion poll commissioned by the BBC the group that was awarded the most peerages and knighthoods during the Thatcher years—politicians and party workers—topped the list for those the public thought were least deserving of honours.

Four out of ten people thought charity and voluntary workers deserved recognition most through the honours system; 21 per cent believed ordinary people, such as nurses, teachers and train

drivers, deserved them most, followed by 17 per cent who nominated the police and armed forces.

Sports and showbusiness personalities and those in the arts and journalism were thought most deserving by 4.3 per cent; those in politics came bottom, with only one in a hundred believing they most deserved honours.

While 51 per cent of those questioned were in favour of retaining the present system, the survey showed a degree of scepticism over how honours were distributed. Seven out of ten people believed that a knighthood, OBE or other award depended upon knowing the right people.

Who least deserves to be honoured?

Politicians and party workers	30.3%
Sports, show business, the arts and journalism	21.5%
Civil and diplomatic services	11.4%
Business people and industrialists	8.5%
Ordinary people	5.0%
Armed forces and the police	4.3%
Charity and voluntary workers	1.8%

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Teachers be target government opt-out

Teachers are to be targeted by the government's opt-out scheme, according to a report in the Sunday Times. The report says that the government is planning to target teachers who are not members of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and who are not members of the Teachers' Guild. The report also says that the government is planning to target teachers who are not members of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and who are not members of the Teachers' Guild.

Councillors act to limit parties' use of schools

Councillors in several areas have acted to limit the use of schools by political parties. In some cases, the schools have been closed to parties for a period of time. In other cases, the schools have been used for a limited period of time. The report also says that the government is planning to target teachers who are not members of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and who are not members of the Teachers' Guild.

Karpov w at end of k

ANATOLY Karpov, the world champion, is to play a match at the end of the year. The match is to be played in London. Karpov is to play against a challenger. The match is to be played in London. Karpov is to play against a challenger. The match is to be played in London. Karpov is to play against a challenger.

Teachers to be target of government opt-out drive

By DAVID TYLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS who might organise campaigns to prevent their schools from opting out of local authority control will be the targets of a government campaign in the new year.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, is considering a propaganda campaign of newspaper advertising and regional conferences in an attempt to increase the small number of schools opting to run their own affairs by being funded directly by the government. He is inhibited by his quasi-judicial role in having to decide whether or not a school should be allowed to opt out after a ballot of parents has been voted in favour. He believes, however, that if local authorities are allowed to run campaigns against schools opting

out, the government should be allowed to be more aggressive in selling the idea, and he is investigating ways of achieving that.

Opting out is a key part of the government's education reforms, but only 44 schools are now operating under grant-maintained status with a further 13 starting in January and April and 28 awaiting approval. Thirteen schools have had applications rejected and a majority of parents at 35 schools have voted against opting out.

Pamphlets explaining what grant-maintained status means to staff have been sent to every head teacher in England and Wales. Teachers have played an important role in persuading parents to vote against opting out and Mr Clarke is anxious to persuade them of the advantages.

Plans to extend the number of grant-maintained schools are likely to be explained by Mr Clarke when he addresses the North of England education conference in Leeds on Friday. He will also detail government measures to improve reading standards in the wake of two investigations showing that too many children are failing to achieve satisfactory standards by the time they are aged seven.

A report from the school inspectorate now with Mr Clarke is understood to show that the reading standards of one in five primary children are unsatisfactory, while the remaining 80 per cent is satisfactory or good. The survey was set up by John MacGregor, the former education secretary, after claims that there had been a 50 per cent rise in the number of children unable to master simple words and sentences during the past four years.

The inspectors visited 120 primary schools this term to investigate teaching methods. They are believed to have rejected the idea that modern methods are to blame for the failure of some children, as they say they can find no evidence of a decline in standards since 1970.

A second survey from the National Foundation for Educational Research, also to be published soon, will show an increase in the number of seven-year-olds with reading difficulties in 19 of the 26 local education authorities that had kept records. The government says that only when all 109 local authorities have detailed records based on the same requirements under the national curriculum will it be possible to have a complete national picture.

The first tests of seven-year-olds begin in the spring but the results will not be published. It is expected, however, that most local authorities will publish the results of the tests taken the following year.

Directors' view, page 21
Education, page 24

Karpov wins in phoney war at end of lost chess challenge

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

ANATOLY Karpov slammed the stable door shut in game 23 of the world championship in Lyons, but the horse had bolted several days before.

Gary Kasparov, who has retained the title by amassing 12 points, played like a man who had emerged from a heavy celebration to make a few perfunctory chess moves. Choosing the King's Indian Defence and playing quickly with black, Kasparov ran into early difficulty, made a couple of obviously unsound sacrifices, and resigned.

The score is now 12-11 to Kasparov, with just today's game to be played. If Karpov can win this as well, he will tie the match and share the prize money, but it will have no effect at all on Kasparov's championship.

Since both players have pledged their prizes to public causes (Karpov to victims of Chernobyl, and Kasparov to the Democratic Party of Russia, of which he is vice-president), the question of finance is also somewhat academic.

Many now consider it ridiculous for the final games to be played out after one player has established himself as champion. Some consolation for Kasparov's losing this penultimate game is that he has been named Soviet sportsman of the year.

Meanwhile, in the Foreign

and Colonial tournament at Hastings, Britain's premier grandmaster event, there was further sharp play in round two.

The game between Jon Speelman and Daniel King ended in a fairly bloodless draw, but there were fierce battles in the other three games. Bent Larsen, the Danish grandmaster and three-times world championship semi-finalist, escaped against Evgeny Bareev, a Soviet grandmaster, who established a crushing advantage in the form of two connected passed pawns on the sixth rank, both threatening to advance and become queens.

In a desperate time scramble, during which Bareev lost his nerve, the young Soviet Olympic gold medalist pushed the wrong pawn, allowing Larsen's king to slip at the last minute into a successful blockading position.

The grandmaster Tony Kosten, a recent addition to the ranks of English grandmasters, won the queen of his opponent, Iceland's top player Helgi Olafsson, a grandmaster. To much surprise, not least that of Kosten, the extra queen failed to break through a fortification erected by the two black knights.

The best game of the day was Murray Chandler's professional demolition of a somewhat suspect opening variation chosen by the Hungarian world championship candidate Gyula Sax.

Second-round results: Speelman d King; Kosten d Larsen; Chandler b Sax. Scores after two rounds: Larsen, Speelman, Olafsson 1½pts; Chandler, Sax 1; King, Kosten, Bareev ½.

Moves in the 23rd world title match:

Karpov white Kasparov black

White Black White Black

1 d4 Nf6 15 Bg5 Nd5

2 c4 g6 17 g4 e4

3 Nc3 Bg7 18 fxe4 fxe4

4 e4 d5 19 Bc2 Nd4

5 B2 20 g5 Nxc3

6 Bc3 e5 21 bxc3 Nc5

7 d5 Nf5 22 Nc4 Bc6

8 Qd2 Qb4+ 23 dxc6 Bxc6

9 g3 Qc7 24 b4 d5

10 e4 e5 25 Bc2 Bc5

11 exd5 gxf6 26 Qc2 Rxc2+

12 Nc3 Nd4 27 Qd3 Rxc3+

13 Rg1 Nf6 28 Kb1 Qf7

14 Bc2 Nd6 29 Bc4

15 Bc2 Bc7

Black resigns

The resignation position

Diagram showing the chess board position after move 29.

Police grapple with the realities of race

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Liverpool policeman had barely sat down in the home of his Asian host at the start of an experimental weekend stay when a stone came crashing through the window, followed by shouts of abuse. As he walked with the family's children the next day, he was greeted with cries of "Paki-lover" from neighbours' windows.

By the end of the weekend the untried policeman, a tough former CID officer, admitted that he had been wrong to believe that racial incidents were merely the infrequent product of drunkenness or squabbles in Chinese restaurants. He now accepted that immigrant families and their guests could be at the constant mercy of the racist, even in a small town like Bedford.

Today the policeman is back with his own force as one of the first graduates of a new scheme sponsored by the Home Office. It is aimed at dragging the police service into confrontation with the issues of race and community relations and forcing officers to plan a positive strategy.

Weekends spent living with members of ethnic minorities are a key part of a special course to set police trainers on the road to changing the ethos of their forces.

Since the course began over a year ago more than 40 officers from almost every force in the country have experienced first hand the realities of racial harassment. One officer was banned from a public house with his black host. Another was abused obscenely from a passing car as he led a crocodile of Asian children. Next year other officers will spend similar weekends in such areas as Liverpool's Toxteth.

The power behind the unit and the course is Jerome Mack, a former United States Air Force expert in community relations, whose company, Equality Associates, worked in Britain for such clients as TSB, BBC Television, the prison service, and senior civil servants. Last year Mr Mack and his company captured the Home Office police contract, worth £380,000 a year, against competition from several universities.

The Home Office wanted to end what was seen as the marginalisation of race and community relations



Power drive: Jerome Mack, the man behind the course aimed at changing police attitudes on race and community relations

training within the police and also to avoid a repeat of their disastrous first attempt at central training provided by Brunel university. The course collapsed with the police at odds with the academics.

Mr Mack has three years, with a

possible two-year extension, to train police trainers and develop a national race and community relations strategy. The Home Office has made it clear that the police must respond and next year inspectors of constabulary will start looking for results.

Mr Mack, a large gregarious man, does not underestimate the challenge. The theory behind his work is not to alter attitudes but to change behaviour in the workplace, taking everybody along in the process.

Programmes that left whites saying "What about me?" or others saying "Now it's my turn", were wrong. "It is stupid because they create a new victim," he said. The TSB corporate philosophy of "the best person for the job and the best service for the customer" was a good example of a simple, effective philosophy.

Equality Associates has devised a four-part programme which first raises the consciousness of students and then sends them on to examining the benefits of change, dealing with implementing it and finally putting change into practice with what has been learnt about the different requirements of minority groups.

The six-week course for police trainers up to the rank of chief inspector is intended to provide them with the first stage of the programme and send them back to their forces with a plan of campaign for stage two and beyond. Mr Mack and his team will go to each force to start the education process for the more senior officers.

"I believe police officers in the main will respond to a call for increased professionalism," Mr Mack said. "They know clear-up rates don't come from detection but help from the public and they are not going to be successful if they are seen as racists or bullies or sexist. There is a cadre who think it is okay to be racist or sexist because in the past the leadership has not been vigorous enough to deal with it."

He said the top ranks were now committed to change. The middle ranks of superintendents and chief superintendents might be more difficult. They could be powerful, complacent and almost untouchable because of the police career system but they had to be persuaded to accept the programme. His skirmishes with police middle management may prove good training for his next big assignment. In the summer of 1991 Mr Mack will hold what could prove to be the first of a series of courses on minorities and the criminal justice system for High Court judges.

Four given new hearts at one hospital

Four patients were given heart transplants at the Freeman hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne over the Christmas period, and all were reported yesterday to be making good progress.

The four patients, who were not named, included a 53-year old man from Glenrothes, Fife, whose five-hour operation began on Christmas eve and ended on Christmas day.

The operation was carried out by a team headed by John Dark, the hospital's consultant cardiothoracic surgeon.

Bodies found

The bodies of a man and his wife, both in their late fifties, were found yesterday in the Felling area of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. Police are questioning a man.

Prisoner dies

Police were yesterday questioning three inmates at Canterbury prison after a remand prisoner, Anthony Whittaker, aged 52, from London, died after being found unconscious in his cell.

Bridge closure

Waterloo Bridge, carrying one of London's busiest roads, is to close from Wednesday for urgent repairs, expected to last a week.

Wreck hunt

A small team of divers is to try to locate the wreck of the Joshua, a Dutch warship that sank with the loss of her crew after the battle of Sole Bay, Suffolk, in May, 1672.

Police gaslight

An annual Home Office inspector's report has criticised the dilapidated condition of Hampshire police buildings. It says one station uses gas lamps for lighting and that policemen are forced to take showers in a storeroom.

Bond winners

National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw: £100,000, bond number JCL 780235, winner lives in Windsor and Maidenhead; £50,000 25CF 374868, Merseyside; £25,000 12YW 942359, Essex.

Employment law forces reviews

THE government today urges employers to review their recruitment and dismissal procedures to take account of employment legislation that comes into force tomorrow (Philip Bassett writes).

The Employment Act 1990 brings in a number of new labour law provisions, including steps against unofficial industrial action, new measures against sympathy action and even tighter moves against the closed shop. Michael Howard, the employment

secretary, said that employers should review their recruitment procedures to ensure that applicants were not refused jobs because of union membership or non-membership. He said that procedures should not obstruct companies' scope to dismiss people to deter and discourage unofficial industrial action.

It will be unlawful for unions to call on employees to take industrial action in support of a dispute between another employer and his workers.

Union case drags on after 135 days

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

LIKE stragglers from a broken army, the remnants of what was to have been a last great stand of organised labour against a hostile government will this week dutifully resume their seats in an austere room in central London and continue what has become the longest running industrial tribunal in British history.

With no end in sight, and with 135 days already behind

them, the 19 shop stewards formerly employed at Tilbury are claiming that they were unfairly dismissed by the Port of London Authority after the abolition of the dock labour scheme.

Some estimates suggest that costs of the tribunal have exceeded £3 million and the saga of accusations and recriminations is expected to drag on through the winter and into next autumn.

In the words of Ron Todd, general secretary of the transport workers' union, port employers would have on their hands a dispute "the like of which you have never seen" if a single docker was dismissed for striking against the abolition of the scheme.

He turned out to be a general with merely a regiment or two rather than an army, and fears that Britain would be brought to its knees as the docks closed and the nation's lifeline throttled proved as empty as the rhetoric.

Although the 19 men have received severance payments of up to £35,000, it is understood that, acting on union advice, most of them have not touched the money as to do so would be to concede that they had lost their jobs.

The dock labour scheme, abolished 18 months ago, was regarded by the government and by employers as an outmoded form of protectionism that allowed workers, secure in the knowledge they could not be dismissed, to make outrageous demands on the employer.

Throughout the tribunal hearing, the 19 men have heard employers accusing them of organising complicated restrictive practices which seriously hampered the ability of the port to be competitive.

John McNab, the port's chief executive, described the "nine o'clock squeeze" which involved almost daily demands of a financial or manning nature with an indication that if they were not agreed there might be disruption of work.

He said it referred to squeezing a lemon dry. "We were the lemon."

The former stewards have maintained that the employers were inherently against unions and had failed to recognize the need for proper training and manning levels for some of the equipment their members were expected to operate.

One said that they hoped for the return of a Labour government to re-establish a national dock scheme in which trade unions played their proper part.



Todd: the rhetoric turned out to be empty

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Iraq plans to hold Kuwait with moat of burning oil

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ plans to defend its hold on Kuwait with a moat of burning oil, travellers from Kuwait who had access to military zones said yesterday.

The travellers said Iraq had dug a trench 15ft deep by 15ft wide along the Gulf coast and near the Saudi border. Next to it was a new pipeline with valves at regular intervals to pour oil into the trench, which could be set on fire to provide a formidable defence against a tank-led assault by the multinational forces.

Iraq remained in a defiant mood yesterday with just 16 days to go before the United Nations deadline for it to remove its troops from Kuwait expires, and threatened again to attack American interests around the world if war broke out. Iraq said it was holding an Islamic conference in Baghdad to discuss plans for a jihad, or holy war.

Iraq's al-Thawra newspaper, the mouthpiece of the ruling Baath party, scoffed at Washington's hopes that any conflict would be confined to the Gulf, and said its vital interests worldwide were targets for attack by Muslim guerrillas. Several Baghdad-based Palestinian factions have pledged to carry out such strikes if Iraq, now the chief sponsor of an

independent Palestinian state, comes under attack.

"It will be among the first duties of Arab and Muslim holy fighters, who are eagerly waiting for the beginning of the confrontation, to open the fire of their anger towards the forces of tyranny who want to impose their evil to stop their march," said al-Thawra.

Abdullah Fadhill, Iraq's religious affairs minister, said Baghdad was organising a three-day Islamic conference on January 9, just six days before the UN deadline.

He said more than 350 delegates would come from more than 17 countries, which would include not only Muslim nations such as Libya, Jordan, Yemen and Turkey, but also those with Muslim communities such as the United States, the Soviet Union, Australia and European countries.

Radical movements such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both known for their attacks on Israel, had been invited. "This will be a conference for jihad," Mr Fadhill said. Al-Thawra said: "Every Muslim will be a missile to be thrown against the enemy once he launches his armed aggression against Iraq."

President Saddam Hussein said he had yet to receive any "effective and constructive" proposals to resolve the confrontation and repeated that the Palestinian issue was the key to regional peace. He was speaking to Budimir Loncar, Yugoslavia's foreign minister, in Baghdad on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the latest organisation to attempt a last-ditch peace mission.

There was little hope Mr Loncar's mission could succeed where top-level Arab and Soviet efforts have failed. Both Iraq and Kuwait belong to the mainly third world movement which has a poor record of solving regional disputes among its members.

On Saturday, Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council issued a formal statement insisting there would be no withdrawal from Kuwait by the UN deadline. It dismissed as "sick" and "evil" reports that Iraq was planning a partial withdrawal before then in return for American guarantees that it would not be attacked.

The council also angrily rejected rumours that the Iraqi leadership was preparing for a face-saving way out of the confrontation by planning mass peace rallies to take place on January 10, calling for a withdrawal from Kuwait.

Gaza and West Bank rocked by clashes

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

TWO Palestinians died in West Bank clashes yesterday and dozens were wounded in a wave of violence after four Palestinians were shot dead by troops during riots in Gaza on Saturday. An Arab woman also died after inhaling tear gas.

Gaza yesterday was declared a closed military zone, with the Strip's population of 750,000 Arabs kept under curfew.

According to Palestinian sources, 150 Arabs were wounded in Saturday's disturbances, which began when troops opened fire at Arab activists writing graffiti on walls in Rafah refugee camp to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the first armed operation against Israel by Fatah, the mainstream group within the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Israeli army sources said the Arab activists killed at Rafah had been wearing masks (an offence justifying opening fire under Israeli regulations), had been carrying knives, and had refused to obey an order to halt. An army spokesman said the number of wounded on Saturday was 90, not 150, and accused Palestinians of "transmitting bombastic numbers to the media".

Sources in Gaza said yesterday's disturbances erupted when troops "interfered with" funeral and memorial marches for the four dead men. Troops used gravel cannon and tear gas as well as bullets to engage thousands of Arabs in the ensuing street battles.

General Yitzhak Mordechai, the army head of central command, yesterday denied that the emergence of a previously unknown group of Jewish settler extremists called the Zionist Avengers marked a resurgence of Jewish Underground, the terrorist group broken up by police in the mid-1980s. Saturday a Palestinian doctor on the West Bank was wounded by a gunman wearing a kippa (Jewish religious skullcap) and army uniform.

The daily newspaper *Davar* said that Jewish extremists who attacked Arabs must be brought to justice to avoid the accusation that Israel was applying "legal double standards". The mass circulation daily *Yedioth Aharonoth* said there was "an obvious link" between the weekend violence and the recent shooting of Arabs by extremist Jewish settlers on the West Bank. The newspaper said there had been "an intensifying cycle of violence" since the Temple Mount killings in October, and this could only be ended by peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Such talks would also undercut attempts by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to associate the Palestinian issue with the Gulf confrontation, the paper said.

The left-wing daily *Al-Hamishmar* said people in Gaza were desperate because they had nothing to lose. The only solution lay in an Israeli evacuation of the Gaza Strip. Guido Di Marco, president of the United Nations General Assembly, is to visit Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza on Wednesday following a United Nations resolution, supported by the United States, condemning Israeli behaviour in the occupied territories.



Fighting fit: Kuwaiti army volunteers yesterday going through physical exercises at a military training camp which houses 1,200 men in the Saudi Arabian desert

Arab generals say war against Baghdad could be won on the first day of battle

By HAZRIL TEIMOURIAN

AUTHORITATIVE Western estimates of Iraq's fighting ability are disputed by Arab and Muslim generals who have fought or co-operated with Iraq's forces. They say a war against Iraq could effectively be won on its first day.

The morale of Iraq's soldiers is likely to be its lowest ever, the generals say. Some conscripts have not been released since 1975 and some frontline troops have been fed secretly by American soldiers at Saudi Arabia's border with Kuwait, allowing their equipment to be inspected by the enemy.

The generals say Iraq, with a population of only 17 million, is a Third World society, most of whose ethnically and religiously divided people are almost certain to harbour a deep dislike for the ruling Baath party.

Warnings by American commanders that war could last for months and cause heavy allied casualties conflict with the opinions of those who have had close dealings with the Iraqi military. These include the Egyptian high command, which helped to strengthen President Saddam Hussein's forces until he invaded Kuwait, Iranian veterans of the eight-year Gulf war and Kurdish

guerrilla leaders in Iraq, who have fought a low-intensity war against Baghdad since 1961.

According to Field Marshal Mohammad Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala, until last year Egypt's minister of defence, allied casualties could be limited to several hundred, and many of President Saddam's claims of possessing advanced weapons are no more than a bluff.

Field Marshal Ghazala said at the weekend that he expected the allied air forces to eliminate Iraq's air force, air defences and missiles in their first few strikes. After that, the Iraqi army would become easy prey for the advanced weapons in the allies' arsenal.

The field marshal, who supervised Egypt's co-operation with Iraq to develop long-range missiles, told the BBC World Service that all of Baghdad's missiles were based on Soviet Scud B missiles, which had a range of only 180 miles and carried small warheads. If their range were increased, the weight of their warheads would diminish correspondingly.

"The Scud is not a very accurate missile and the Iraqis don't have many of them," he said. "I doubt very much if the Iraqis have been able to make chemical warheads

for them, and even if they have, one bomb or ten bombs cannot contaminate a city or large numbers of troops with anti-chemical defences."

European military experts believe the two thousand American and allied fighter-bombers that face Iraq would be able to mount at least 6,000 sorties in the first five days of war, virtually destroying the Iraqi air force during the first day.

This assessment is based on the Iraqis' performance during the war with Iran. Iran's ageing American aircraft, of which only 50 could fly at the same time, proved more than a match for Iraq's 500 more modern fighters, mainly because of the poor training and motivation of Iraqi pilots.

Equally poorly trained are the men who command Iraq's ground troops. Persistent reports of the arrest and execution of army officers give the impression of a force which is never consulted before it is launched into war, and the valour of whose best commanders serves only to incur the enmity of a jealous tyrant who regards them as mere technicians. At least 10,000 troops are estimated to have gone into hiding since the invasion of Kuwait, and

dozens of junior officers have sought asylum in Iran, Turkey, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Jalal Talabani, the main leader of the Iraqi Kurds who has periodically fought and negotiated with President Saddam since 1968, believes President Saddam refuses to bow to the superior allied forces because he is still unconvinced that the Americans will fight him. "He will be convinced only when the first attacks are launched. Then he will ask for a ceasefire," Mr Talabani said.

In the end, the duration of any war with Iraq's armed forces, which number an estimated one million men, including the Popular Army of ageing men, will depend on the allies' aims. While the eviction of Iraq from Kuwait might be achieved within a few days, the overthrow of the Baath party in Baghdad would require engagement on a scale possibly greater than envisaged.

However, once Iraq's air force was destroyed and its army's supply lines were cut by allied air power, starvation could be relied on to do the rest. Few would urge that American and British tanks drive up the Baghdad road from Kuwait.

Seat-belt father on child death charge

New York — Ramiro Defesus Rodriguez, a Nicaraguan immigrant who failed to fasten a seat-belt around his daughter, Veronica, aged three, has been charged with killing her (James Bone writes). She died after hitting the dashboard in a crash while he was driving home from a supermarket in Hialeah, Florida. His wife, Veronica's mother, was also in the car when Mr Rodriguez tried to make a left turn and hit an oncoming van. Veronica, who had been sitting on her mother's lap, died of head injuries four hours after the crash.

Since 1982 Florida law has required children to be strapped into a special safety seat which would probably have saved Veronica. The state attorney has charged Mr Rodriguez with "vehicular homicide", a felony. The case, which is scheduled to come to trial on January 28, is the first test of mandatory child seat-belt laws now in effect in most American states. A Californian man charged in similar circumstances earlier this year was not prosecuted because of adverse publicity.

Mr Rodriguez, who sent his daughter for burial in Nicaragua but could not himself afford to attend, says he usually strapped Veronica into a safety seat but did not do so on the day she died because the trip, to buy milk and eggs at a nearby grocer's shop, was so short. The impoverished Nicaraguan community in south Florida is collecting money for his defence.

Cuban aid deal

Mexico City — Cuba, which has imposed severe austerity measures to cope with financial difficulties, has signed a new economic aid pact with the Soviet Union, the Cuban official news agency reported. Soviet officials have said that the economic crisis in their own country would mean significant cuts in aid to Cuba, whose hardline communist government has been increasingly at odds with the changing Soviet Union. (AP)

Youth for trial

New York — Lawrence Bartley, aged 17, of Long Island, has been charged over the Christmas Day shooting at a screening of *The Godfather, Part III* in which a boy aged 15 died after being shot in the head and three bystanders were wounded, police said. He is charged with reckless endangerment and criminal possession of a weapon. Andrew DiSimone, a Nassau County police spokesman, said. (AP)

Sri Lanka truce

Colombo — The dominant Tamil Tigers guerrilla group has announced an indefinite ceasefire in Sri Lanka starting in the new year. It said it was suspending the latest round of its separatist campaign which has left some 5,250 people dead since June. The truce would allow relief work in the northeastern regions. A senior government official said the government was aware of the offer and it was under consideration. (AFP)

Leaders still jailed

Athens — The Greek government has reversed a decision to free seven of the last eight leaders of the country's 1967-1974 military junta still in jail. A spokesman, Byron Polydoros, said after an emergency meeting of senior ministers that the decision had been taken to prevent socialists and communists in the opposition from taking advantage of what was a humanitarian decision. (AFP)

American congressmen urge flexibility over Gulf talks

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration is under increasing pressure to be flexible about proposed talks between the United States and Iraq amid lingering hopes that a diplomatic solution to the Gulf confrontation is possible.

Congressional leaders invited to the White House this week will urge President Bush to soften his opposition to holding talks with Baghdad no later than January 3 as part of a last-ditch effort to resolve the situation peacefully. Robert Dole, the Senate Republican leader, said yesterday that Iraq's ambassador to Washington, Muhammad al-Mashai, at the weekend "gave some indication there was some flexibility" in Baghdad on dates for high-level US-Iraqi talks.

In *Time* magazine, Mr Bush said his gut feeling was that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq would pull out of Kuwait even though some Arab leaders believed he would not take such action for fear of being toppled.

His comments appeared as speculation grew that the European Community might open its own dialogue with President Saddam in an attempt to solve the situation peacefully before the United Nations deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. The French foreign ministry said yesterday the EC's 12 foreign ministers would hold a meeting about the confrontation on Friday in Luxembourg. Also on January 4, the foreign ministers of Egypt,

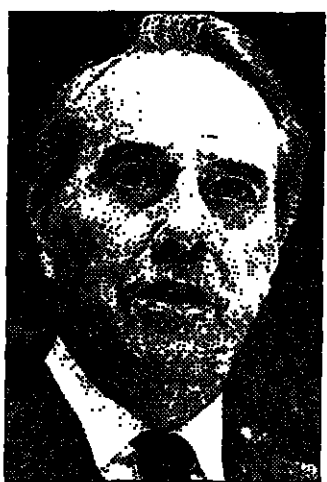
on holding discussions between President Saddam and James Baker, the US Secretary of State, before January 5. Iraq has offered January 12 as a date for talks.

"There's got to be," a shift in Washington's position, Mr Dole said. He added: "My gut tells me there will be a resolution without firing a shot."

His words echoed remarks by Mr Bush, who is due back in Washington tomorrow from Camp David. In an interview published today in *Time*, he said: "My gut says he will get out of there. But that flies in the face of what some of the Arab leaders tell me, which is that he cannot get out. He cannot do it in Kuwait what he did in Iran. He cannot do it and survive domestically."

The White House had no comment about Mr Bush's remarks. Administration officials have kept a low profile over the holiday period. Their uncharacteristic silence has stirred speculation that a diplomatic solution to the confrontation might surface even without visible signs of progress.

Diplomatic sources in Baghdad were quoted in *The Washington Post* as saying they believed President Saddam was preparing a last-minute ploy to delay American military action by appearing amenable to a settlement.



Dole: has a gut feeling that peace will prevail

Syria and Saudi Arabia are due to discuss the issue in Jeddah.

Mr Dole, who has supported the White House's handling of the Gulf affair over the past few months, told NBC News's *Meet the Press* that leading Democrats and Republicans would talk to Mr Bush about America's insistence

on holding discussions between President Saddam and James Baker, the US Secretary of State, before January 5. Iraq has offered January 12 as a date for talks.

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Refresher training for back-up troops

By NICHOLAS WATT

ARMY reservists who have been called up for compulsory service in the Gulf and members of the Territorial Army who have volunteered to serve there will have about ten days of concentrated refresher training, probably in Cheshire, before flying out in mid-January.

The training will polish the individual skills, including dealing with chemical weapons, that they will need if there is a war. There will be courses in medical skills and in particular in the methods used by the British Army. The troops will also begin to learn the teamwork they will need in the Gulf.

Most of them will work in the general hospitals which form the third line of medical defence in war. Some, however, may be called to serve in the field hospitals which form the second line of defence behind regimental aid posts. The medical training in Britain will not need to be extensive since those who have been called up have proven medical skills.

The first batch of volunteer personnel, who have already been interviewed, have been told to report on Wednesday. The 250 army reservists who were called up last Friday to make up the shortfall will report on Saturday.

This batch will then undergo a screening process that will involve a fitness test and an interview which will consider compassionate reasons, such as totally dependent infirm members of their families, for allowing individuals to withdraw their services. The interviews will also consider any conscientious objections and whether a reservist should be paid up to 20 per cent more than the set army salary to help make up any shortfall in civilian salary.

The Ministry of Defence has called up only reservists for compulsory service and members of the Territorial Army are going only if they have volunteered. Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP, has won backing for his weekend advice to reservists to defy the call-up. The support came from Alex Falconer, Labour Euro-MP for Mid Scotland and Fife, at a peace vigil in Kirkcaldy yesterday. He told about a hundred campaigners: "I am pleased to see Tam Dalyell's statement. I wish it was supported by other members of Parliament." He claimed that the Americans had already "ordered their first 100,000 body bags to ensure that bodies are taken back to America".

Leading article, page 13

Janus face of Bush joins hallowed hall of fame

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

EVERY president of the United States since Roosevelt has been chosen by *Time* magazine as its Man of the Year, and as this year comes to an end George Bush joins that distinguished list — twice.

In an equivocal tribute, *Time* named the "two sides of President Bush" as Men of the Year and printed a Janus-like double exposure of the president on the cover. "One was a foreign policy profile that was a study in resoluteness and mastery, the other a domestic visage just as strongly marked by wavering and

confusion," the weekly news magazine said in its cover-story.

Henry Muller, the managing editor, told a news conference that Mr Bush narrowly defeated President Saddam Hussein of Iraq for the coveted title. "Why didn't we pick Saddam? The answer in the end really is that invading a little country is not enough to make you man of the year," Mr Muller said.

The choice raised eyebrows in Washington, where Mr Bush has been locked in combat with Congress over the US budget and his hardline policy in the Gulf.

The Washington Post attributed two of its top ten "Great

excuses of 1990" to Mr Bush. After causing a furore among farmers by revealing his dislike of broccoli, Mr Bush said that he did not have to eat it because "I'm president of the United States". And on the reversal of his campaign pledge of "no new taxes", Mr Bush said: "But you know, sometimes you run into some realities."

Mr Bush's son Neil, involved in a scandal relating to a bankrupt savings and loan institution, picked up a third excuse of the year for the Bush family with his explanation: "First of all, I didn't know that much about financial institutions." *Time* said Mr Bush

had "raised a vision of a new world order" by building an international coalition against Iraq. But domestically, he left "things alone until he could no longer avoid taking action". "Global diplomacy is what he has trained for and what absorbs him; domestic affairs are just not as much fun," the magazine said.

Other figures *Time* cited as among the year's most important personalities were Nelson Mandela, deputy leader of the African National Congress, and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, was also mentioned — a sign of how far

the fortunes of *Time*'s Man of the Decade for the 1980s, President Gorbachev, have fallen in the past year.

Time called Bart Simpson, the cartoon boy who stars in the television series *The Simpsons*, the "most overexposed under-achiever" and featured the popular hero on the cover of its penultimate edition of 1990.

Both Bart and President Bush were among *People* magazine's "25 most intriguing people of 1990". President Bush, "his place in history insecure, faces a sea of troubles — and his most daunting crisis" the magazine said.

Recession likely to spark workers' revolt in eastern Europe

DIFFICULT 1990 was the year that the worker, pampered hero of communist propaganda, fell from grace. The coming year, 1991, is the year that he will strike back, a time of danger for the barely-formed political institutions of the new eastern Europe.

For the first time in 45 years workers became vulnerable to unemployment. They came to fear not the arbitrary whims of communist managers, but the union shop steward strolling down the factory floor selecting those who should be made redundant. Inflation, suppressed under the communists (when it was expressed in the form of chronic shortages and long queues), came into the open, biting into their savings and those of their retired parents. State subsidies peeled away by monetarist finance ministers in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia forced up food

prices and rents. Seemingly protected areas, kindergarten fees, bus tickets, coal for pensioners, fell as if to invading forces: market forces, perhaps.

It was a great shock that has not been fully digested, nor compensated for by the first free parliamentary elections (and in Poland's case, presidential elections) since before the war. Instead, elected politicians were seen as even more fickle than their communist predecessors, and parliaments were distrusted as cliques of metropolitan intellectuals trying to hijack the democratic revolutions.

In fact the 1989 revolutions for the most part bypassed the workers, drawing only on their passive support. That year saw a youth revolt, the triumph of an anti-totalitarian vision protected by dissidents, a national and nationalist uprising: all of this,

Inflation, not democratic revolution, has reshuffled the social cards and lengthened emigration queues in Poland. Similar problems beset Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Roger Boyes says the creation of a middle class is the only hope

and more, but never a worker revolution in the classical mode. Instead workers became the prime victims of the second stage revolution, the market revolution. Now, as recession takes a firmer hold, workers are waking up, trying to find a real political voice.

By the end of 1990, unemployment in Poland had reached 1.2 million and was set to pass the two million mark by the summer of 1991. Czechoslovakia and Hungary tried to cushion unemployment and managed to keep it down to about 100,000 in

both countries. But as privatisation was pushed harder in Prague, it was obvious to the financial planners that there would be a big leap in the number of jobless by the spring. Czechoslovakia is due on New Year's day to raise prices across the board.

All three nations were facing the shock of paying for Soviet oil and gas in hard currency. The prospect of a Gulf war has pushed up world oil prices and upset all the carefully-argued plans presented to the International Monetary Fund. Mechanical

engineering industries, specifically constructed with Soviet needs in mind, will no longer have a customer in Moscow and cannot find a market in the West for their low quality products.

The trades unions, even legendary Solidarity, saw their power ebb away in 1990. In 1980, as a national protest movement, Solidarity had ten million members; in 1990, it could claim barely two million. In Hungary and Czechoslovakia, where unions have not completely divorced themselves from socialist thinking, there was a stark choice:

defend the market revolution, or defend the workers. More and more workers were inclined to stage wildcat strikes.

It was hyperinflation, rather than the democratic revolution, which reshuffled the social cards in Poland. Now the same effect threatens Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The communist states were "workers' and peasants' states". But hyperinflation destroyed the value of productive work, forcing many to join the emigration queues. Farmers too, do not know how to cope with new cheap imports and are implicitly rejecting reform by demanding credits and some price subsidies.

The one hope is the rapid coming together of a responsible middle class. There are signs that the new property-owning private entrepreneurs who have emerged so forcefully over the past year

could take over some of the civic functions of funding charities, patronising the arts and above all propping up parliamentary democracy, but this still too distant for a turnaround in 1991.

Instead worker discontent will simmer and stew. Who will be the arbiter now of social justice? Who will protect the pensioners, teachers, health service workers, the unemployed? Centre right governments in Poland and Hungary will try their best. Czechoslovakia, with Slovakia straining at the leash, must also move in this direction. Yet the pressure of unrest, above all from workers, will mean that calls for national unity will almost certainly not wash with workers feeling the pinch of the recession. There will be moves to revive left-wing parties speaking directly to the needs of the displaced workers. It will be an explosive new year.

Poland's new prime minister aims to pursue market reform

FROM AGENCIES IN WARSAW

JAN Krzysztof Bielecki, Poland's prime minister-designate, yesterday continued his efforts to form a transitional government to run the country until parliamentary elections are held, probably next spring.

Mr Bielecki was named by President Walesa on Saturday to take over from Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who resigned as prime minister after a humiliating defeat in last month's presidential election. His nomination must be approved by the lower house of parliament (Sejm), which is expected to consider it on Friday.

The choice of Mr Bielecki, a businessman and Solidarity member of parliament, appears to underline Mr Walesa's commitment to continue the drive to-

wards a market economy which was started in January by Leszek Balcerowicz, the deputy prime minister and finance minister, who is expected to be in the new government. Mr Bielecki supports his ideas.

Mr Walesa has known and worked with Mr Bielecki, aged 39, for more than a decade. A graduate of Gdansk University, Mr Bielecki became an economic adviser to Solidarity in 1980. After the imposition of martial law in 1981 he lost his job at a management college for taking part in a protest strike. In 1985 he founded Doradca, a private business consultancy. The company has been involved in preparing some of the recent privatisations of state-owned enterprises.

Mr Bielecki was elected to parliament as a Gdansk deputy in June 1989. He is a leader of the small but influential Gdansk-based Liberal Democratic Congress Party, the first group before the collapse of communism to start advocating a radical switch to free-market economics.

Albanians join exodus to Greece

ATHENS — Hundreds of Albanians crossed into Greece yesterday in the greatest single exodus since the Albanian Communist regime promised democratic reforms.

A police spokesman in the Greek border village of Filiates said at least 500 Albanians had swarmed over the border by daybreak, bringing the total to more than 1,000 for December. All were seeking political asylum. Most of the Albanians who have crossed the 100-mile frontier have been ethnic Greeks.

"Our police station has become a refugee centre," said the spokesman. "They must have opened the border and let them come. It looks like there are whole villages crossing. It's a madhouse here."

Police were automatically granting political asylum to ethnic Greeks. The spokesman said the other Albanians would be taken to the United Nations Lavrion refugee centre, 40 miles from Athens.

Vyron Polydoros, a government spokesman, appealed to ethnic Greeks to remain in Albania. (AP)

Seized Briton freed

A BRITISH woman was one of 88 passengers freed unharmed by the hijackers of an Algerian aircraft, who later surrendered in Algiers. The woman, married to an Algerian, was the only Briton among 14 foreigners on board. Two armed Algerians, both in their 20s, seized the Air Algérie Boeing 737 during an internal flight on Friday. Algiers radio said the hijackers wanted to go to Tunis and were protesting against repression of Muslim fundamentalists there.

Junta pardoned

BUENOS AIRES — President Menem of Argentina officially pardoned the men who overthrew Isabel Peron and subsequently waged a seven-year "dirty war" against subversion during which thousands of people disappeared. Although Señor Menem has presented the pardons as an act of national reconciliation, they have been rejected by almost every political party and polls show that more than 60 per cent of the population is against the reprieve.

EC funds request

The European Commission has asked the European Parliament to allow it to reallocate £62 million which had been set aside for social policies, using it for agriculture instead (Andrew McEwen writes).

Glyn Ford, leader of the European parliamentary Labour party, said the Parliament's social affairs committee was "pretty annoyed" about the request and had asked Vasso Papanastasiou, commissioner for social affairs, to appear before it.



Bielecki after hearing of his appointment



Before and after: "tent city" protesters displaying their grievances in the shadow of the Kremlin recently, before police demolished the encampment yesterday

Alarm bells echo through Soviet media as Shevardnadze programme censored

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SOVIET media representatives at both ends of the political spectrum have added their influential voice to support the view that President Gorbachev has conceded ground to hardliners and that perestroika and glasnost are in danger.

On Friday night, the presenter of *Vzglyad*, a television programme renowned for its bold interpretation of glasnost, announced that a planned documentary on Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation had been withdrawn on instructions from the State Committee on Radio and Television. In what would once have been an act warranting immediate dismissal and still takes courage, Aleksandr Lyubimov said that in the view of

the programme-makers the documentary had been withdrawn "on political grounds".

For several days now, a similar allegation of "glasnost in peril" has been levelled by a number of official newspapers, including the official trade union paper, *Trud*, and the main Moscow paper, *Moskovskaya Pravda*. They have published front-page articles claiming that freedom of expression is endangered by changes in the funding of the press.

Trud complained that the newspaper had been presented with a sharp rise in the price of newsprint which would not be covered by its advance subscriptions for 1991. Despite having the largest circulation of any Soviet paper — this

year it was 22 million — the paper might have to cease publication. Liberal Russians will tend to believe the presenter of *Vzglyad* when he says that his programme was unreasonably censored, but will have little sympathy for the embattled official press. Whether glasnost is at risk, however, is another matter. The official press has reason to be worried, not for the fate of glasnost, however, but because it is now to be confronted with commercial reality. The new press law required all Soviet publications with more than 1,000 subscribers to register, then solicit subscriptions for 1991 at an appropriate price.

Most Soviet papers are bought and delivered on annual subscription. When the "official" papers fixed their subscription rates they took into account a price increase for newsprint and a likely reduction in readers. In the event, subscriptions are down by as much as 80 or 90 per cent, and the 1991 price of newsprint is likely to be several times the original estimate. Papers regarded before the new press law as "unofficial" have always had to obtain their materials, such as newsprint, on something akin to the open market, paying several times more than state-subsidised prices. As a result, they were generally 10 to 20 times more expensive than "official" papers, which cost between 3 and 5 kopecks (2 pence) and their readership was correspondingly lower. Commercially, however, they are far stronger.

Moscow's tent city destroyed

FROM REUTER IN MOSCOW

POLICE with bulldozers early yesterday destroyed Moscow's "tent city", a group of makeshift homes near the Kremlin that sprang up as a gesture of disillusionment with Soviet life. Witnesses said the protest city's three dozen residents were rounded up by police before the bulldozers flattened their plastic and cardboard dwellings.

The police action crushed a poignant symbol of hope for a better future as the Soviet Union headed into a new year certain to be marked by food shortages, ethnic tensions and deepening political paralysis.

"The tent city was a political protest by the simple people," said Svetlana Sedukh, who had lived for three months in the shanty town to promote her attempt to emigrate. "This was the first and the last such protest. There will never be another," she said.

An interior ministry spokesman said the police acted on orders from the Moscow prosecutor after a decision by the executive committee, a branch of local government.

He said 47 people were rounded up yesterday between 2.35 am and 3.50 am, a day after residents of the tents had been asked to end their protest. Fifty-two tents were destroyed.

"I heard a loud noise at about 4 am and looked out of the window," said Eduard Zaslavsky, a sailor whose room in the Rossiya hotel overlooks the site. "There were lorries and bulldozers. They took the people away in city buses. The whole country, led by Gorbachev is turning to the right. Now this."

Most of tent city's full-time residents, including elderly pensioners, war veterans and former mental patients with a variety of grievances, were taken into custody.

A police officer at the scene said some would be sent to mental hospitals while others would be freed after investigation. But the interior ministry spokesman said protesters would be given free tickets back to their home towns.

Tent city, which sprang up last July, drew deprived and destitute people eager to air their grievances at the Kremlin's gates from across the Soviet Union. Their complaints covered everything from homelessness to unemployment, poor food and low pensions.

Until yesterday it had been tolerated by the radicals who run Moscow city council. Nobody on the council or the executive committee could be reached for comment.

Gorbachev announces sales tax

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev signed two economic decrees over the weekend in an attempt to reduce next year's internal deficit and combat the reluctance of several Soviet republics to contribute to the central budget.

He announced a 5 per cent sales tax to come into effect throughout the Soviet Union from tomorrow and the creation of a "stabilisation fund" to tide unprofitable industries over the transition to market conditions. The two decrees were published as the Russian Federation leader, Boris Yeltsin, returned from his visit to the autonomous republic of Yakutia in the north-east of Siberia. Mr Yeltsin was quoted as saying that he had secured agreement on the division of revenue between Yakutia and the Russian Federation under whose jurisdiction the autonomous republic comes.

Yakutia is the Soviet Union's main producer of gold and diamonds and a key area, both economically and politically, in the Russian Federation's plans for a big cut in its contribution to the central budget. If Yakutia, as an autonomous republic, were offered its own seat on the new council of the federation, it could scupper the Russian Federation's plans by voting with the central leadership on economic questions rather than with the Russian Federation.

Plans for a national sales tax were announced in the draft central budget published six weeks ago, but the budget itself has not yet been passed by the Soviet parliament.

In what may be a concession to the republics, the decree says that 30 per cent of the income will be retained by the centre, while 70 per cent will go to the republics.

The head of a new body established to oversee the press, Mikhail Nenashv, told *Moskovskaya Pravda* that he hoped certain key publications would receive a hefty subsidy to keep them going and "maintain glasnost". Some hitherto secure publications are likely to fail. If official and unofficial papers are forced to compete on price alone, the face of the Soviet press could look quite different in a few months' time.

The withdrawal of *Vzglyad*'s analysis of Mr Shevardnadze's resignation appears to be a clear case of censorship, and an ominous one at that. Television — with some exception — is the most glasnost-minded of all the Soviet media.

De Michelis toasts his success at helm of the EC

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

GIANNI De Michelis, Italy's foreign minister, bubbled with bonhomie last week as he sipped sparkling wine in the frescoed rooms of Villa Madama, a 17th century building overlooking Rome. He was entertaining about 80 Italian and foreign journalists to celebrate the close of Italy's EC presidency, which in Italy is being hailed as a great success and of which Signor De Michelis has been the undisputed star.

Italy's extrovert and charismatic foreign minister can afford to look with bemused tolerance at earlier criticism of the Italian presidency, in particular a spate of attacks by the British press just before the October summit in Rome. He even smiled when reminded of *The Economist*'s description of the Italian presidency as "a bus driven by the

Marx Brothers", which at the time provoked outrage among Italy's politicians and diplomats.

"The journalist who wrote that has since apologised to me," he said. Asked with which of the Marx Brothers he could most identify, Signor De Michelis laughed loudly and said: "Why, with Groucho, of course!"

There can now be little doubt that the Italian presidency, which passes to Luxembourg in January, was on the whole a success. Events such as German unification, the Gulf confrontation, and significant steps towards monetary unity lent prestige and a high profile to the presidency, and in general the Italian apparatus proved equal to its task even if, at first, aspects of the turbulent Italian style of doing things caused irritation. "At first there seemed to be a desire, in particular on the part of the British, to see Italy's presidency as

chaotic and messy at all costs," said Signor De Michelis.

"The results have clearly proved otherwise, and incidentally Italy itself has proved a paragon of political stability. Over the past six months Britain has seen its prime minister resign, in France (Michel) Rocard (the prime minister) just scraped by with four votes, and Denmark was forced to hold early elections. Nothing of the kind has happened here."

Signor De Michelis attributes some of the British criticism to a basic unwillingness to move quickly along the path to unification, as well as to some surprise at Italian organisational methods.

"Certainly we were very active, dynamic, and at times had to improvise. This may have started a few people. We organised, at relatively short notice, special foreign ministers' meetings in

Paris, New York and London. But there was never anything irregular in the way these meetings were called, as some people have suggested."

In Signor De Michelis's opinion, the Italian presidency has coincided with a new vision of European national politics.

"We now realise that Europe's politicians must reason in European rather than narrowly domestic terms," he said. "Thatcher's resignation is an eloquent example of a politician forced to bow to European logic, who had to respond to a European rather than a domestic situation."

The Italian political stability boasted by Signor De Michelis, however, is arguably the result of an agreement among the five coalition partners not to rock the boat of government during the Italian presidency. There has in fact been a great deal of turmoil in

Italy's politics, and an "examination" of the five-party alliance is scheduled for January. This will involve the settling of accounts built up over the past six months and could lead to upheavals in the political balance. "But here, too," said Signor De Michelis, "those who have a European vision of politics will prevail."

On the Gulf situation, the Italian presidency has been firm and clear, a novelty compared with the flexibility and vagueness of past Italian policy on the Middle East. Last week, Signor De Michelis had a parting broadside on this subject: "Those fools who go on about negotiating with President Saddam Hussein only serve to bring the possibility of war closer. The point is that he must leave Kuwait unconditionally, and any talk about negotiations and concessions only encourages him not to do so."

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Peking uses five-year plan to reinforce its ideology

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINA, clearly unnerved by the collapse of communism in eastern Europe, yesterday vowed to strengthen ideological and political work to "re-energise the national spirit". The pledge came in a communiqué which was intended to deal with the economy, making public the guidelines for China's next five-year plan. But the communiqué repeatedly strayed into the realms of ideology.

It declared that "in the face of a complicated international situation" it was necessary "to strengthen ideological and

political work in real earnest, carry out in-depth education in patriotism, collectivism and socialism and re-energise the national spirit".

The communiqué was heavy on headline ideological rhetoric but light on answers to the country's pressing economic problems. The document was issued at the end of a central committee plenum which had been delayed since October because of disputes between Peking and the provinces over the economic direction for the future.

The plenum itself took six days, pointing to further time-consuming disagreements.

The detailed proposals which make up the content of the five-year plan were not released, and the final document will only be published after the rubber-stamp parliament has officially approved it next March.

The debate over economic reform is believed to centre on the speed of economic change and the amount of autonomy allowed to the provinces. The provinces are eager to be free to make their own decisions and to go all-out for growth in the manner which made some cities rich under the more flexible leadership of the ousted general secretary, Zhao Ziyang. Mr Zhao, now in internal political exile, drew up the last, highly reformist, five-year plan with Hu Yaobang, the late Communist party chief.

But yesterday's communiqué carried a dour warning to "guard against and overcome the tendency of being impatient for success", exactly the tendency which is prevalent in the provinces.

In typically conservative tone, the document emphasised the primary importance of agriculture in a country where 70 per cent of the population lives in the countryside. It also called for large state-run enterprises to be invigorated. Radical economists have suggested that the best way to deal with the large loss-making state industries would be to allow them to go bankrupt and die a natural death.

In line with earlier statements, the communiqué claimed that gross national product would quadruple by the end of the century, and living standards would improve.

The Central Committee also debated a ten-year national economic and social development programme. The communiqué's comment on this was equally half-hearted, but did note that the next ten years would be of "pivotal" importance to China's fate.

The possible fall of China's socialist system clearly lay heavily on the minds of those drafting the document. Indeed, the first principle for implementing the plan, according to the communiqué, is to "firmly follow the road of building socialism".

Convicts parade corpses in Dhaka

From REUTER IN DHAKA

PRISONERS at Dhaka's central jail yesterday paraded the flower-bedecked bodies of three inmates killed when police opened fire on rioting convicts on Saturday, and threatened to stage a hunger strike.

"Administration inside the prison has collapsed," police said. Most of the 4,700 prisoners had come out of their cells. Police and hospital sources said three prisoners were killed and at least 100 people, including 25 prison guards, were wounded. Witnesses said the death toll could be as high as twenty.

Prisoners said they would go on hunger strike unless the authorities reviewed charges against them quickly and freed them. Repeated attempts to remove the bodies of the dead prisoners failed because angry inmates threatened to start rioting again, police said.

Prisoners carried the bodies, chanting: "We are hungry, we want freedom and we shall never go back into the dark cells." Some wrote their demands on pieces of paper, wrapping them around stones which they threw to journalists.

Jail officials said the bodies had started to decompose but they did not have the forces to overpower the prisoners. An official said they could not call in reinforcements "because it might cause more trouble". Officials said police were forced to open fire on Saturday when prisoners attacked them and prison guards with sticks and stones.

Abdul Karim, a prison official, said prisoners demanding to be set free had argued that they had been jailed by military courts set up soon after the deposed President Ershad took power in a coup in 1982. They demanded their convictions be quashed now that he had resigned.

Reshuffle reveals Kaifu's weakness

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

TOSHIMI Kaifu, Japan's prime minister, has prepared for the new year by reshuffling his cabinet. But the significance of the move, which comes after a long and public tussle over its timing, lies mostly in what it betrays about Mr Kaifu's continuing weakness at the helm. It will bring few measurable changes to Japan's foreign or economic affairs.

After having said publicly several times that he did not want to rejig his team until early in the new year, Mr Kaifu on Saturday finally buckled under the power of the grandees in his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Plucked from obscurity last year to take on the prime minister's job because all the

leading contenders had been tainted by the Recruit bribery scandal, Mr Kaifu has never been his own man and has had to obey his benefactors' instructions. But he saved some face by managing to avoid including LDP bigwigs who had been caught in the Recruit mess and who felt that they had been long enough in the wilderness as a result.

Mr Kaifu has retained Taro Nakayama as his foreign minister and Ryutaro Hashimoto as his finance minister. Misoji Sakamoto, who also stays on, as chief cabinet secretary, gave a clean bill of health to the new faces. He said there was nobody in the cabinet who would face public criticism for illegal stock dealings.

Seiroku Kajiyama, the plain-speaking former justice minister who recently compared Asian prostitutes to American blacks, was returned to the shadows. He is replaced by Megumu Sato.

Struggling to rebuild his popularity, Mr Kaifu also brought a woman, Akiko Santo, into his third cabinet to be head of the Science and Technology Agency.

Three LDP party executives have also been kept on: Ichiro Ozawa as LDP secretary-general, Takeo Nishioka as chairman of the executive council, and Mutsuki Kato as chairman of the policy affairs research council.



Kaifu talking to reporters after the reshuffle



Dress sense: a street vendor in Peking, wrapped up against the winter chill, eating a steamed bun as he awaits customers for his 1991 calendars. Bestsellers feature scantily clad models, or kittens

Muted response in Korea as Chun ends exile

From SIMON WARNER IN SEOUL

THE former South Korean president, Chun Doo Hwan, made a far from triumphant return to his house in Seoul under heavy security yesterday after two years of internal exile at a remote mountaintop temple.

Plans by students to disrupt his return did not materialise, partly because most activist leaders had been arrested over the previous few days and partly because nearly 3,000 riot police were mobilised.

Mr Chun was greeted on arrival by neighbours singing a Buddhist hymn and by 30 current and former members of parliament, with whom he seemed uncomfortable. He retreated into the palatial house he had donated to the state when he left for the temple in November 1988.

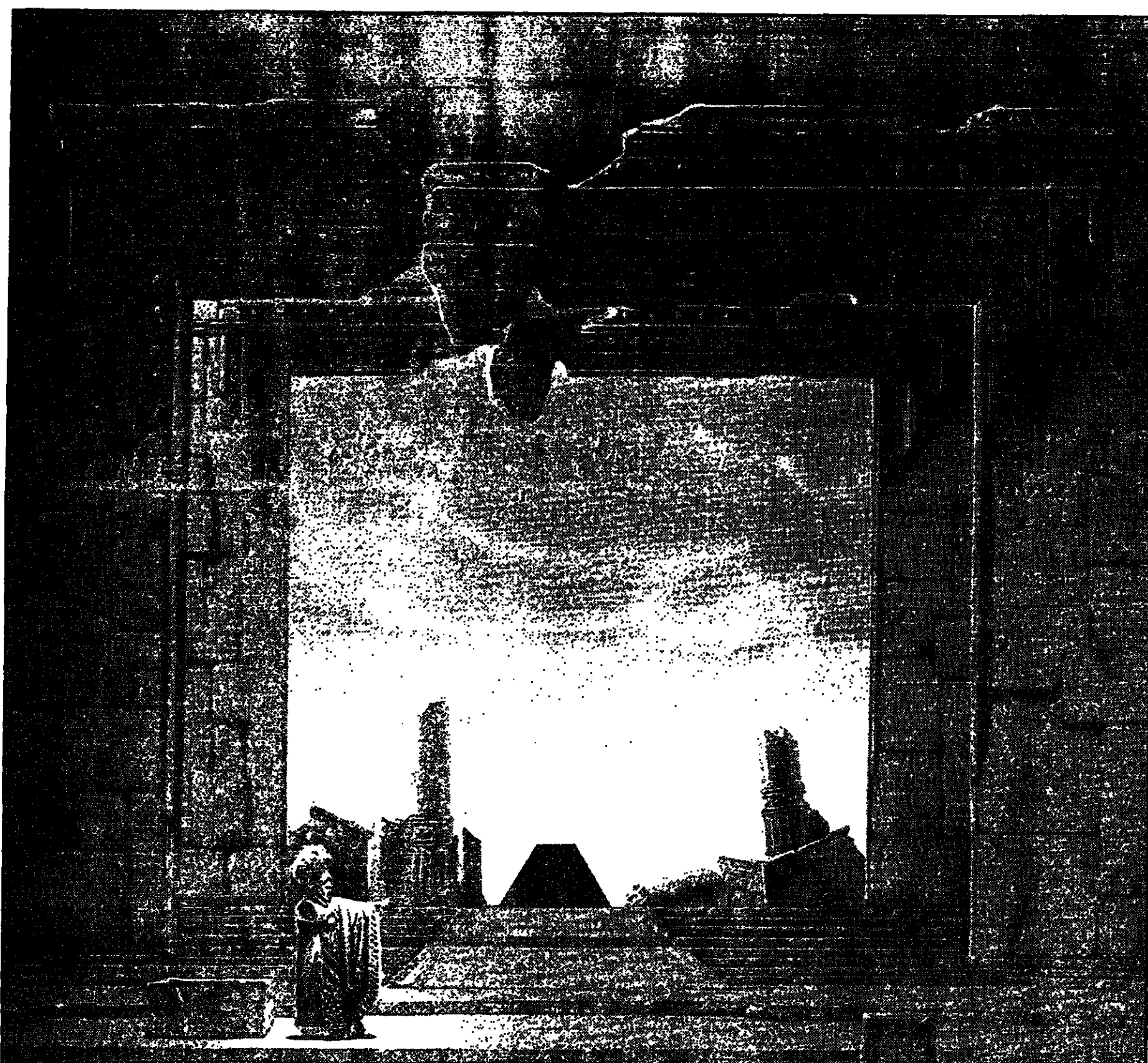
President Roh, one of the generals who supported Mr Chun when the army took power in 1979, had said it would set a bad precedent in the treatment of former presidents if the state kept the house. The opposition leader, Kim Dae Jung, who suffered under Mr Chun's strict rule, said he did not care where the

disgraced former president lived but there would be trouble if Mr Chun even looked as if he were dabbling in politics. Mr Kim also said the apology Mr Chun gave before leaving Seoul had been far from adequate.

After Mr Chun left office in February 1988, several of his relatives were brought to trial on corruption charges and sentenced to jail, though they have since been freed. No charges were brought against Mr Chun and he has never admitted to anything worse than failure to control his relatives.

He still denies that he grabbed power in a coup during the chaotic days after the assassination of President Park in 1979. Observers say, and President Roh is gambling on it, that with Mr Chun back in his house, interest in him will die with the passing of the old year.

It may be that Mr Chun has, as he claims, been changed by the rigours of two years of prayer in a temple without running water or electricity and that all he wants is to be with his family.



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DALYELL'S DISSERVICE

President Bush's gut tells him that Saddam Hussein will withdraw from Kuwait before the January 15 UN deadline, or so the president has said to *Time* magazine. Whether he is right, however, depends on Saddam's own gut. If that tells him war is inevitable unless he withdraws, then withdraw he will, under whatever face-saving formula he can devise. If it tells him that the American-led alliance against him is wavering, he will be tempted to stay put.

The danger of war is real, but it will happen only if Saddam miscalculates. He easily could. The air is full of black propaganda and contradictory messages. That is the unfortunate context in which Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, has urged reservists to defy the call-up.

In these islands, Mr Dalyell is regarded as a more or less harmless eccentric with a lust for publicity, the kind of fellow newspapers use to stretch out a thin story on a holiday Sunday. But Baghdad will also have noted that the call-up had to be imposed by law, because insufficient members of the reserve have so far volunteered. The danger is that in the minds of the tyrant, these two pieces of information will be strung together as serious evidence of weakness of purpose among Saddam's enemies, so making war more likely.

Not too much weight can be given to the handful of those called up who have expressed their reservations. No doubt many were hoping that others would be more enthusiastic to serve than they. Those who are ex-army personnel may have joined as long as 22 years ago, when they are unlikely to have given much attention to the requirement to remain on the reserve into middle age.

Though the right of such conscripts to resume their civilian careers is protected by the Reserve Forces Act, and though the most progressive private companies have been quick to assure those who work for them that they will not lose by going, a residual concern for the careers they will be interrupting is inevitable. Many of those

being called up are medical rather than military men, motivated by nurturing rather than martial instincts. A peacetime army, full of fit young men, needs relatively few doctors; one going to war needs relatively many more. That compulsion has been found necessary is regrettable but wholly understandable, and it is most unlikely that they will pay much heed to Mr Dalyell.

The government has made it clear that those who would suffer grave hardship will be exempted. Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, has erred in tending to stress economic reasons for exemption. It would be intolerable if those who escaped their obligations did so because they were merely the richest of those called up, if the National Health Service went while his private counterpart stayed at home. The usual right to conscientious objection will be granted, with the right of appeal to a tribunal. Beyond that, intolerable hardship to family should be weighed, as should the quality of service which those involved are giving to the community in their present occupations.

In practice, those worst affected are likely to escape service. The rest will be doing their duty by Queen and country, by minimising the pain and loss of life if there is a conflict. Most of them will readily come to terms with that fact. Indeed, assuming that Saddam does not miscalculate, they will not need to come to terms with it for long. Because he encourages such miscalculation, Mr Dalyell, who purports to be their friend, is objectively their enemy. Some Conservative MPs are even suggesting that he should therefore be prosecuted for treason. That is absurd.

Britain's willingness to wage war in the Gulf is based not only on calculations of national interest, but on the conviction that the reversal of Saddam's aggression is necessary to protect civilised values. Those values include Mr Dalyell's right to voice his foolish opinions. A Baghdad Dalyell would be a dead one. To prosecute him would be to take a sledgehammer to a very British kind of nut.

RATIONING SURGERY

Christy Strachan, still less than a fortnight old, became the most famous baby in the kingdom last week. He was born with a heart deformity that was diagnosed as potentially fatal. London's Great Ormond Street pronounced him suitable for a transplant if a new heart could be found. Once that decision had been made, public events — and the public perception of them — took on a momentum of their own.

Fed by the Great Ormond Street publicity machine, newspapers and television were only too pleased to have such a moving human interest story at Christmas time. A donor heart was found after an international appeal, the ten-hour operation took place, and the nation prayed or held its breath. Sadly, Christy died soon after, and the nation mourned. A sorrowful Marc de Leval, the surgeon, said afterwards he was "sure it is right" for surgeons to continue with such transplants, and that they could learn from their failures as well as from their successes.

Christy's tragic story, at Christmas of all times, is left in the public memory as a heroic effort to save the life of a sick child, all credit to everybody. But there is a debit side. These operations on very young babies are not very successful — only about 80 per cent survive a year. On a strict ethical basis of treatment being only for the patient's good, the fact that failure might lead to medical progress is irrelevant — or worse, if it implies experimenting on dying babies.

Even if this operation succeeded, Mr de Leval has stressed that a successful heart transplant for Christy would not have cured him. One expensive medical procedure would have been followed by several more in due course. While it may be taken for granted that Christy hardly suffered, as an older child facing a long medical struggle to survive he would surely have been bound to do so.

Mr de Leval says Great Ormond Street hospital lets such parents decide their babies' treatment for themselves "when

given all the facts". Most parents, no doubt after much mental torment, opt to let the baby die. But it is nonsense to say they are given all the facts — not all the facts can be known. If the baby lives, its future is quite uncertain. Such pioneer operations are gambles taken in ignorance both of the stakes and the odds. But the most important fact withheld from them, rightly as it cannot be their responsibility, is the effect on resources elsewhere in the National Health Service.

The proposition, as put to the parents, implies resources are unlimited, and not just at the moment but years hence. But this supposes, as many doctors are only too happy to suppose, that the supply of medical services will always be increased to meet whatever is the demand for them. Medical economists sometimes maintain that the ultimate demand for an unrationed health service is infinite and could in theory absorb the entire gross national product.

True or not, medical resources are all too finite, as lengthening hospital waiting lists and empty (because unmanned) wards make plain. Baby Christy's expensive and somewhat speculative treatment is inevitably linked to that of an old person waiting months in pain for a hip-operation. But the latter are never "given all the facts" and left to decide. They are told to join the queue. In the nature of the case, there will always be queues. Had Christy survived, he too would eventually be in a queue for further surgery.

Elaborate surgical intervention, such as a heart transplant on a 11-day old baby boy, raises deep questions of medical ethics. The Great Ormond Street team would do better to answer these themselves, rather than off-load some of them onto distressed parents. Doctors need constant reminding of Clough's famous dictum: "Thou shalt not kill but need'st not survive/ Officially to keep alive." And such intervention ought never to be considered without reference to economics. Medicine is about saving lives, but it is also about the agony of choice.

ENGLAND HALF EXPECTS...

"England collapse" was the traditional cry of cockney paper-sellers in old movies, a cheap shot for locating scenes in London. England is always collapsing, as Noel Coward might have said — but blessed is the nation that can collapse so heroically. Thrashed in the first innings, England follow on five hundred adrift — and then some Horatio-at-the-bridge turns the match around, usually with an arm and a leg in plaster. Or used to.

Sometimes effete gentlemen batsmen, ravaged by demon Australians, left it all to the local hero from Lancashire. Picked for his shoulder muscles, he makes a last-wicket stand with his drinking pal equivalently configured, snatching victory with a string of sixes. The radio commentators choke on their chocolate cake while remembering much the same happening in 1886.

Or 1940. Dunkirk was the great Last Wicket Stand of all time, leading, a number of overs later, to victory. Graham Gooch should be invoking its spirit in the England dressing room this minute, except that he probably wore it out as his tail-enders marched to the crease and back at short intervals on Saturday.

Not a hanger-on-in-there among them, in the event. Dunkirk might not have happened. Russell fetched his skipper a mere 1, DeFreitas and Fraser walked back quacking. Malcolm was still 99 away from his first test century, and Tufnell's batting average

remained unchanged. Meanwhile the judgment on England clicked rapidly from 147 for 5 to 150 all out. Even by England's standards the collapse was spectacular, and not a man among them to be hailed for his *Boy's Own* pluck. Someone had forgotten the script.

Cricket is essentially a paradigm of life rather than a sport, but it does not have to be the life of King Lear. The experts say the team is unbalanced, by which they mean Botham's successor has not yet been discovered in the bulrushes, and as a result after about six in the order things start to get even more wobbly than they are higher up.

Non-experts do not simply want another Botham. They want the Dilley to go with him, the duffer who helps the demon to save the day. England expects such Everyman strikers as Russell, DeFreitas, Fraser, Malcolm and Tufnell to do their duty, but only now and again, only at its hour of greatest need. The rest of the time they can bat like donkeys.

The essence of English cricket (and English history) is fate confounded, a demouement to the drama which its representatives at the Melbourne cricket ground signally failed to pull off. Only by a three-two victory in the series can they now redeem themselves and their country, and refresh the national stock of clichés.

Evidence on an 'Iraqi supergun'

From Mr Kenneth Warren, MP for Hastings and Rye (Conservative)

Sir, Readers of your report (December 27) about the Select Committee on Trade and Industry's hearings on what has been called the "Iraqi supergun" should not believe that the committee is insensitive to the sterling service of our forces in the Gulf, or that there is reluctance to give evidence to the committee.

Ministers in the Department of Trade and Industry and the two principal industrial companies involved have both given us valuable evidence already and have agreed to co-operate fully in our hearings. As far as I am concerned, I start from a position of needing proof that the materials in question were destined for a weapon of war.

My parliamentary colleague, Sir Hal Miller, may not recognise the value of giving evidence personally and we cannot force a member of Parliament to appear before us. However, bearing in mind the very fine defence he put up in Parliament to help his constituents who found themselves involved in customs enquiries, I hope that he will recognise the value of telling us the precise warnings he gave to the Government two years ago and what subsequent action he took.

Our hearings on this subject are flexible, and of course we are not so silly as to put our agenda before the cause of our forces. The export of weapons of any kind to Iraq was banned long before the invasion of Kuwait. I believe we have a duty to our men in the Gulf, as much as to Parliament, to assure them that the scrutiny system for exports to Iraq has not failed them.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH WARREN
(Chairman, Select Committee on Trade and Industry),
House of Commons,
December 27.

Gulf 'disinformation'

From Mr Lionel Bloch
Sir, As the UN deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait draws nearer, hardly a day passes without some official utterance or unofficial leak that comforts the beleaguered Saddam Hussein.

American commanders have been leading the field of moaners with pleas for more and more delays. If this is supposed to be disinformation, then its demoralising effect certainly outweighs any surprise attack benefit. On the other hand, if the Americans are really not ready, why, after nearly half a year, is the Pentagon unable to deliver?

A soft public opinion — particularly in the US — encouraged by church leaders preaching appeasement is not better prepared for the tragedies of battle by anticipated lamentations. On the contrary.
Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BLOCH,
9 Wimpole Street, W1,
December 28.

Legal aid fees

From Mr Ian P. G. Southward
Sir, The Lord Chancellor has suggested that my profession lowers its fees in order to make legal services available to more people (report, December 7).

I wonder if the Lord Chancellor could spare the time to come down to Salisbury to persuade my secretary that not only should she not look forward to a rise in the new year, she should take a cut in wages; that my landlord should give up his intention to double my rent in May next year and reduce it instead; that Salisbury District Council should reduce the business rate which I have to pay next year; and that others who supply goods and services to me should do likewise.

If he can succeed in all this I will happily reduce my fees to the private client and desist from considering cessation of all legally-aided work.
Yours faithfully,
I. P. G. SOUTHWARD,
Banham & Co (Solicitors),
28a The Cheese Market,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Ring out, wild bells...

From Mrs A. S. Price
Sir, I claim the first sighting of a portable telephone in use (for an outgoing call) at midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at St Augustine's Church, Downs Barn, Milton Keynes.

Yours faithfully,
ANN PRICE,
6 Orchard Close, Yardley Gobion,
Northamptonshire,
December 27.

Fisheries policy

From Mr David Porter, MP for Waveney (Conservative)

Sir, Your editorial of December 19, "Fishy business", gave a fair summary of the failure of the regime of quotas and other measures which make up the common fisheries policy. You are right in saying that the government has to bite the bullet of an over-large fleet. I personally favour a method other than bankruptcy.

You may also be right that reduction of fishing effort will hit the Scottish fishing industry hard, but it should not be forgotten that English ports, including Lowestoft, have a good record on sticking to the rules, only to see themselves penalised because of poor enforcement and over-fishing.

What the government has to find is a policy on fishing to take to the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Pornography viewed as spur to crime

From Mr Trevor Price

Sir, Kenneth Baker is quite right in criticising the Home Office report on pornography as being "curiously inconclusive" (report and leading article, December 21), in that the report has again become stranded in the "cause and effect" debate and failed to address the issue of the use of pornography as a tool of the sex offender.

As the only residential centre for the treatment of sex offenders we are daily made aware of how the sex offender uses pornography to support his distorted thinking in "normalising" his abuse and as an aid in the "entrapment" of his victims.

The machine gun may not be the "cause" of a psychopathic massacre, but its availability facilitates the act. Pornography may not be the "cause" of a sex offender's crime, but it is one of the prime tools he uses to justify and facilitate his vile acts.

We need to extensively research the impact of pornography upon the sex offender before we conclude the

debate on how we seek to control the availability of such material.

Yours faithfully,
T. PRICE (Director),
Gracewell Clinic, 25-29 Park Road,
Moseley, Birmingham.

From Dr Gerald Silverman
Sir, Your report (December 15, later editions) of a senior police officer doubting the need for a proven causal link between pornography and crime, simply because he finds it "obvious", is depressing. Recent history is replete with police officers preferring their intuitions to facts.

As a psychiatrist with specialist interest in sexual offenders I enquire routinely about pornography, and recall only one case in ten years where this was at all contributory. Serious sexual offenders usually pay scant interest to pornography, and the current fuss over what is largely mere bawdy amusement obscures the actual cause of crime, something which will only be illuminated by open-minded studies of offenders themselves.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD SILVERMAN,
11a Collingham Gardens, SW5.

Sado-masochism case

From Mr Paul Ferris

Sir, Your admirable leader today, "Pornography and prejudice", refers to the "sado-masochism" case (report, December 20) in which 15 homosexuals were punished for, by and large, consenting acts in private.

You say that "the jury made a subjective judgment" to criminalise the defendants' activity. In fact no jury was involved, more's the pity: over the years, juries have shown more sense than the judiciary when it comes to sexual matters. It was Judge James Rant who, after hearing legal submissions from counsel, ruled that consent to the beatings and "torture" involved was no defence. Under those circumstances, the defendants were advised to plead guilty.

The judge was appalled that men would want to do such things for pleasure. So are most of us who don't share those tendencies. But that was nothing to do with making criminals of them. Judge Rant's frame of mind is suggested by one of his exchanges with counsel during pleas for mitigation. He found it "hard to accept that any mature

man" would think it right to indulge in such conduct.

When the barrister (Miss Anna Worrall) suggested that the criminal law was not concerned with moral standards, Judge Rant replied: "It is not a question of morals. It is a question of sheer common sense". This plain-man stuff is a dodgy basis for sending people to prison.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL FERRIS,
26 Roehampton Court,
Queens Ride, SW13,
December 21.

From Mrs Oswald Brakspear, JP

Sir, Most of us are sickened by many of the sexual activities to which we are not personally inclined; but that such behaviour, between consenting adults in private, however morally reprehensible, should come within the ambit of the criminal law without reference to Parliament, is cause for alarm to this law-abiding citizen.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE BRAKSPEAR,
Pickwick Manor,
Corsham, Wiltshire,
December 21.

Religious disbelief

From Mr P. Panayi

Sir, In the article by Jonathan Clark ("Innovation on a pagan base...", December 22) St Nicholas was described as "the Turkish miracle worker", and "4th-century Turkish saint".

St Nicholas was a Greek bishop, of the Greek bishopric of Myra in the province of Lycia in Anatolia, at a time when the Turks were not even thought of.

Imagine describing the Pharos as Arabs, or Pythagoras as Italian because he lived in Sicily!

Yours faithfully,
P. PANAYI (Managing Director),
The Cambo Organisation,
20 Albert Square, Manchester 2,
December 24.

From the Dean of Truro

Sir, It would be wrong to conclude from Jonathan Clark's article that the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was invented in 1918 at King's College, Cambridge. Your Cornish readers, at least, will welcome the reassurance that it was the first Bishop of Truro, Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, who put together the first such service, which was held in the

wooden shed that was his temporary cathedral here on Christmas Eve, 1880.

It was not until 1918 that Eric Milner-White, one of the most distinguished of this century's liturgical writers, adapted Benson's service for use at King's.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SHEARLOCK,
Truro Cathedral Office,
21 Old Bridge Street,
Truro, Cornwall,
December 23.

From Subdeacon Paul Inglesby

Sir, Jonathan Clark reminds us that the festival of Christmas has a pagan base, although it was later adapted to serve the needs of orthodox against Arianism.

Once again under threat, mainly from the new paganism of commerce, Christians should now turn to the traditional orthodox nativity date of January 7 — i.e., December 25 old style. It is manifestly impossible to reconcile the remorseless demands of mammon with those of God.
Yours faithfully,
PAUL INGLESBY (Secretary),
The Old Calendar Church Society,
Orthodox Christian Centre,
7 Magdalen Street,
Gloucester, Somerset.

Electricity stakeholders

From Mr Richard C. Bing

Sir, Electricity privatisation has much to commend it, but the brass, albeit effective, campaigns for the Freds and Sids have done little either to educate them about the realities of the energy industry, or the acquisition of financial assets.

Each of the mass-marketed share offers has brought forth complaints from would-be shareholders — inevitable, given the political imperative of making the issues a runaway success while paying insufficient attention to allocation arithmetic or the long-term requirements of wider share ownership.

While much needs attention in electricity supply, the new culture and discipline of being a plc will, over time, result in desirable changes. Mrs J. Patricia Evans (December 15) aimed at the wrong target on staff numbers. I commend Eastern Electricity for its innovative advertisement — it showed a refresh-

ing stance. For change to happen, the commitment of staff and shareholders is vital; they both need a sense of ownership in the enterprise in which they are key stakeholders.

There have been substantial staff and cost reductions in electricity distribution in recent years without any significant deterioration in customer service. In future, even more reduction will have to be given to customer care, to the environment and to energy efficiency, bettering the present, often minimalist, policy declarations published under titles like "customer charter" and "environmental statement".

Best practice in corporate governance. For a few leaders will surely provide encouragement to the laggards. Eastern Electricity's advertisement was an excellent example.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BING,
23 Burgh Street, N1,
December 17.

EC in which all parts of the British industry actually have some faith and are prepared to make work.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PORTER,
House of Commons,
December 21.

From Mr R. S. S. Barningham

Sir, Having read both your leading article of December 19 and Mr Gummer's reply (December 20), I should like, as a fisherman, to say that your leader presents a reasonably accurate portrayal of the present situation.

Mr Gummer states that increasing the mesh size to 120mm makes no conservation or management sense, and mentions his success in 1986 in having minimum mesh size increased from 80mm to 90mm. In the trials he quoted, using 120mm mesh, only eight fish were caught; his inference was that either the fish escaped, which would suggest the

conservation which he says is the only means of safeguarding the long-term interests of fishermen, or that there are very few fish left to catch, which lends even greater urgency to the need for conservation.

The introduction of a tie-up of vessels for eight consecutive days during each month (report, December 21) will not make one iota of difference to the amount of fish caught. The only difference will be to the social lives of the skippers and crews.

Mr Gummer omits to mention, during his résumé of his six years' involvement with the fisheries, that he has been operating a quota system. All that this has achieved is a dramatic decline in the fish stocks and consequently a drastically reduced total allowable catch.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. BARNINGHAM,
6 Cromwell Parade, South Cliff,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

A new face for London's streets

From Mr Courtenay Blackmore

Sir, Your leading article of December 21, "London goes post-modern", is depressingly negative. Indeed, you follow precisely Sir Dudley Carleton who wrote, in 1617, that "the Queen is building somewhat at Greenwich, it is said to be a curious device of Inigo Jones".

Much is learned by good architects from our traditions, but it would be fatal to revert to a traditional London streetscape for its own sake. Incidentally, much of the West End which you applaud is Regency, Victorian and Edwardian, designed by men who had no inhibitions about replacing the handiwork of their Georgian predecessors.

If London is to play its proper part as the commercial centre of Europe we must build to suit the users' needs. To this end, architects and occupiers must work closely together. Both must strive to achieve excellence in design, and where excellence is achieved the most appropriate style will evolve.

If our grandchildren are to flourish we do not want a "traditional" museum capital "in aspic", but rather one combining the best of the past with the best of a new age. Each decade will demand different types of building. Architects of merit will have the inspiration to help us find the most effective solutions to meet these needs, whatever they may be. May we therefore concentrate on excellence of design, rather than squander energy in perpetuating the outmoded debate on the merits of different "isms".

Yours faithfully,
COURTENAY BLACKMORE
(Chairman, Architecture Awards Trust),
61 Riverside Gardens,
Castelnau, SW13,
December 21.

From Mr Christopher Brereton

Sir, Now that the scaffolding has been removed, Venturi's extension to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square is revealed as an architectural joke — a sophisticated joke, but a joke none the less.

At the nearest end of the new building to the existing gallery a mass of pilasters are jumbled together, as if to say "look how hard I am trying to be well mannered to my neighbour". The classical bits are then progressively more widely spaced until, near the corner, a column stands weakly on its own.

Beyond this, the elevation to Pall Mall East is largely devoid of further classical allusions, apart from a few vestigial lengths of cornice and plinth moulding. The plain rectangular openings which form the entrances cut arbitrarily into the facade, unrelated to column bases, pilasters or anything else.

Architectural flippancy of this kind is surely inappropriate for a building of such a purpose and in such a location. Can this have been what Prince Charles hoped for when the previous design was scrapped, after he had described it as a "monstrous carbuncle"?

Yours faithfully,
J. C. BRERETON,
145 Wenworth Road, NW11,
December 21.

Submarine fare

From Mr John Albert

Sir, Sooner or later, presumably, the prime ministers of France and Great Britain, or perhaps the heads of state, will formally declare the Channel Tunnel to be open. How, on the day, should they mark this triumph of engineering and construction?

There is a long-established tradition of celebratory meals enjoyed on site. For example, a banquet lit by gas candelabra was held in the Rotherhithe Tunnel, below the Thames, shortly after construction started in 1825. In 1843, a few days before Nelson's statue was placed in position, a rumsteak dinner for 14 was served on the top of the column in Trafalgar Square (*London's Open Air Statuary*, Lord Edward Gichen, 1928); and in 1896 two thousand guests of the contractor sat down to lunch in the workings of the almost completed Blackwall Tunnel in 1896 (*Crossing London's River*, John Pudney, 1972).

If Britain and France were to celebrate with a banquet held in mid-tunnel, beneath the sea, what dishes should be served?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ALBERT,
Salcombe Forest, Sussex.

Sour grapes?

From Rear Admiral P. F. Grenier

Sir, I have had enough of so-called wine experts who appear to vie one with another with ridiculous descriptions of wine tastings.

Who in their right imbibing mind would rush out to buy wines seriously described as "... zesty, zingy, combination of chocolate and liquorice, dirty feet and leaves, nuts roasting on a bonfire ...", and so on and so on?

Let us expedite the mass deportation of wine critics and proceed quietly with our individual quaffing. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
FRANK GRENIER,
Keyford, Upton Scudamore,
Warminster, Wiltshire,
December 19.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.



Primate and Premier: Dr Robert Runcie, sever in sympathy with Mrs Margaret Thatcher

Adrian Hastings

Runcie and Thatcher: So close and yet so far apart

MARGARET Thatcher wrote to Robert Runcie in July 1979 to invite him to become the 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury. She had been Prime Minister for two months. In November of this year she left office and he will do so just two months later, at the end of January. Seldom, if ever, have a premier and an archbishopate so nearly coincided.

Throughout his eleven years of office Dr Runcie has provided the ecclesiastical leadership for a Britain whose immediate character was being emphatically reshaped according to the philosophy of a Prime Minister with which he was never in sympathy.

Yet they had much in common. Both were children of lower middle class background who found their way, via scholarships and good grammar schools, to Oxford in wartime. Dr Runcie first went there as a communist. He had learnt communism from his classics master at school and enjoyed attending meetings held by Harry Pollitt in the Giler. When he returned after the war and distinguished service as an officer in the Scots Guards he had become, instead, a Tory. He was even, for a while, college representative for the Conservative Association, until more committed souls, including Margaret Roberts herself, then at Somerville, found him unreliable and he was replaced.

It is not surprising. Politics was a primary interest. From "Christian socialist", as he had thought himself already at school, to wet Tory, the substance of his views about a caring society probably changed rather little. It was an increasingly ideological and unparliamentary commitment to the improvement of the common good.

Dr Runcie is not one for great schemes. He does not much believe in liberating ideologies or creative structural revolutions, whether in church or state, only in the long grind suggested by that line of William Blake he is fond of quoting: "He who would do good must do it by minute particularity". Certainly in 1980 when, after 10 years as Bishop of St Albans, he was enthroned at Canterbury, he must have appeared one of the least politically minded of bishops.

Unlike his predecessors he was not chosen by the Prime Minister. Cogan was chosen by Wilson, Ramsey by Macmillan, but since 1977 a Crown Appointments Commission, including bishops, clergy and laity, has been established to recommend a suitable name. For an archbishop it has an ad hoc lay chairman (in 1979 Sir Richard O'Brien). The commission proposed Dr Runcie and Mrs Thatcher agreed. So, from the start, he presented a slightly less

Erastian pattern of things and the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero in San Salvador the very day before his enthronement, (photographs of the two appeared together in *The Times*) certainly suggested that archbishops these days, just as in the twelfth century, could well be at loggerheads with the state.

Dr Runcie, nevertheless, is not a person who likes to work through conflict. Consensus may not be a virtue for Mrs Thatcher but for the archbishop it always has been. A realist, he has never wanted to get involved in dog fights with the Government, though that is how at times the media have tended to depict him. In fact, his outstanding ability to adapt to circumstance, the quality of the chameleon which has often been noted and even attacked, has made him less antipathetic to current policy than some more outspoken clerical critics of Thatcherism.

Viscount Whitelaw was his commanding officer in the Guards. From 1983 he was Leader of the House of Lords and the political relationship was not unaffected by this and other friendships Dr Runcie was continually accumulating. Once he did the archbishop came near to leading the opposition and that was over the British Nationality Bill in 1981. He attacked it sharply, in the name of all the churches, and voted against it even at the last reading on a final amendment. He certainly did not regret doing this; nevertheless his own judgement probably told him that confrontation avails little and he never did it again.

It was the *Faith in the City* report, produced by a commission set up by the Archbishop with Sir Richard O'Brien as chairman, which produced the sharpest constructive criticism he experienced.

Its function was to examine the problems of the inner city in the light of the Brixton riots and suggest what church and state might do. Downing Street was said to have informed the press that a cabinet minister had called it a "Marxist document". Of course it was not, but on publication the archbishop had to spend an hour explaining that it was not. Lord Scarman later called it "a classic description of one of the most serious troubles in British society".

The Government attempt to rubbish it even before it had been read, did the report and the archbishop little harm. In fact, its recommendations were mostly directed to the church, their implementation has been of undoubted benefit, while even Mrs Thatcher's expression of concern for the inner city in the 1987 election may have owed something to Dr Runcie's report. Yet here, as over the archbishop's Falklands sermon at the St

Paul's thanksgiving service, a general sense of unease between him and the Prime Minister emerged.

Dr Runcie could well be claimed an ideal primate for a Thatcherite society. While he never saw his role primarily as critic, he has steadily endeavoured to stress those aspects of social morality which the Prime Minister has cared about at least. "There is no such thing as society" she was famed for declaring. He could never have said that and at the end of his ministry still likes to think of himself privately as the Christian socialist of his youth. The genuine tension in their relationship derived especially from the very sincerity of her commitment to Christianity. She was as sure about this as about everything else: a rather privatised religion, but something of great importance as far as it goes.

In style they are as different as in content. For him the acceptance of uncertainty, the two sides of every question, compromise and humour are all important; for her a sure lies in every one of them. They are the qualities of a liberal. Despite this they have in fact cooperated continually and without difficulty. The archbishop has found her extremely accessible, perhaps just because of her preoccupation to let nothing go. The appointment to even the least of bishoprics has still mattered. Anxious to secure the appointment of the right kind of Christian, she would not leave the Crown Appointments Commission to do its work without vetting, though never exceeding her constitutional powers.

It would be interesting to study the relationship of various archbishops and prime ministers, of Ramsey with Wilson, Temple with Churchill, Lang with Baldwin. But perhaps the relationship of none has been more subtle than that between Runcie and Thatcher: so near and yet so far. At the bottom of it rests a basic otherness of viewpoint. For her what mattered most was the encouragement of the successful. For him, as he remarked in an address to the cross-bench peers: "The church has a special concern to speak... for all those who are at the bottom of the heap".

While neither wished to accentuate the conflict, some of her camp followers, at least in the middle years of her premiership, rather liked to do so. That this was the case Dr Runcie accepted stoically enough. In the age of Oscar Romero he could afford to smile at an archiepiscopal fate no crueler than this. Robert Runcie, by Adrian Hastings, professor of theology at Leeds University, will be published by Mowbray on January 24.



For God has revealed his grace
for the salvation of all
men: Titus 2: 11 ONB

BIRTHS

HELDEN - On December 19th to Christina and Lawrence, a daughter, Katherine Louise Helden.

BROWN - On December 27th, 1990, at St. Thomas' Hospital, to Margaret (née Livermore) and Paul, a son, James Anthony Livermore.

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men: Titus 2: 11 ONB

BIRTHS

HELDEN - On December 19th to Christina and Lawrence, a daughter, Katherine Louise Helden.

BROWN - On December 27th, 1990, at St. Thomas' Hospital, to Margaret (née Livermore) and Paul, a son, James Anthony Livermore.

BURY - On December 24th, at the Portland Hospital, to John and Christine, a son, Archie William Bury.

SEAGER - On December 17th, to Diana and Steven, a son, Thomas James Seager.

HELPER - On December 27th, to Martin and Sue (née Carr), a son, Thomas Martin.

LAMB - On December 27th, at the Portland Hospital, to Diane and Alan, a son, James Christopher.

McGARRAHAN-ARMITH - On December 26th, at the Portland Hospital, to Stephen, a son, Joshua.

PAWLEY-IZARD - On December 18th, at 09.37, at the Portland Hospital, to Margaret and Nader, a daughter, Vivian Razieh.

SEAGER - On December 17th, at the Portland Hospital, to Anne and Michael, a son, Charles Samuel.

SHAW-MURPHY - On November 26th, at the Portland Hospital, to Emily Elizabeth.

TEAGUE - On December 16th, at the Portland Hospital, to Edward, a son, Christopher Patrick.

WOLKARD - On December 13th, at the Royal Surrey Hospital, to Christopher and Catherine, a son, Charles Samuel.

WILKINSON - On December 28th, at the Portland Hospital, to a son, James.

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All our yesterdays: the year in history

JANUARY

2 Alexander William Kinglake, historian of the Crimean war, died London, 1891.
3 Jeremiah Horrocks, astronomer, died Lancs, 1641.
4 Charles Kene, humorous artist, died London, 1891. Henri Bergson, French philosopher, died Paris, 1941.
5 Amy Johnson, aviator, lost over the Thames estuary, 1941.
6 Robert Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, died Nyeri, Kenya, 1941.
11 Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann, moderniser and designer of Paris 1852-70, died Paris, 1891.
13 George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, died London, 1691. James Joyce, poet and novelist, died Zurich, 1941.
14 Benedict Arnold, American (later British) general, born Norwich, Connecticut, 1741.
17 George Kennell, American historian, died Washington, 1891.
18 Emmanuel Chabrier, French composer, born Amboise, central France, 1841.
24 Caligula, Roman emperor AD37-41, died Rome, AD41.
25 George Augustus Selwyn, wit and politician, died London, 1791. John Arbuthnot Fisher, 1st Baron Fisher, Admiral of the Fleet, born Ceylon, 1841.
26 Nikolaus Otto, German pioneer of the internal combustion engine, died Cologne, 1891.
28 Ferdinand Herold, French composer, born Paris, 1791.
30 Charles Bradlaugh, free-thinker and politician, died London, 1891.
31 Ernest Meissonier, French painter, died Paris, 1891.



Amy Johnson: lost in 1941

FEBRUARY

5 A.B. "Barrio" Paterson, Australian folk poet, died 1941.
8 Il Guercino, Italian painter, born Cento, 1591. André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry, Flemish composer, born Liège, 1741.
9 Ronald Colman, actor, born Richmond, Surrey, 1891. Johan Barthold Jongkind, Dutch painter, died France, 1891.
10 Henry Hart Milman, poet, dean of St Paul's, born London, 1791.
12 Windham Thomas Quin, 4th

Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl, Irish politician, born Adere, Co. Limerick, 1841. Charles Francis Voysey, architect, died Winchester, 1941.
13 Johann Joseph Fux, Austrian composer, died Vienna, 1741.
14 William Tecumseh Sherman, American civil war Union general, died New York, 1891.
16 Leo Delibes, French composer, died Paris, 1891.
19 Sir Hamilton Harty, Irish composer and conductor, died Hove, 1941.
20 Karl Czerny, Austrian pianist, teacher and composer, born Vienna, 1791.
21 Jethro Tull, agricultural writer, died Hungerford, 1741.
25 Pierre-Auguste Renoir, French painter, born Limoges, 1841.
26 Evelyn Baring, 1st Earl of Cromer, statesman and diplomat, born Cromer, Norfolk, 1841.
27 Edward Cave, printer, born Newton, Warwickshire, 1681. George Migot, French composer, born Paris, 1891.
28 Alfonso XIII, Spanish king 1886-1931, died Rome, 1941.
29 John Brynmor, poet, born Broughton, Lancs, 1691.

MARCH

2 John Wesley, evangelist and leader of Methodism, died London, 1791.
9 More than 60 people perished and 12 ships were lost in storms lasting until March 13 which swept southern England, 1891.
13 Tom Mann, trade unionist, founder member of the British Communist Party, died Grassington, Yorks, 1941.
14 First submarine telephone lines laid across the English Channel, 1891.
17 Jean-Baptiste Rousseau, French playwright and poet, died Brussels, 1741.
20 Jean-Antoine Houdon, French sculptor, born Versailles, 1741. Laurence Barrett, American actor, died New York, 1891.
28 Virginia Woolf, novelist and critic, committed suicide, Rodmell, Sussex, 1941.
29 Georges Saurat, French painter, died Paris, 1891.

APRIL

2 Max Ernst, German painter and sculptor, born Brühl, 1891.
6 Domenico, Italian painter, died Naples, 1641.
7 Phineas Taylor Barnum, American showman, died Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1891.
11 Second world war: blitz on Coventry, 1941.
17 Johann Gottlieb Naumann, German composer, born Bissewitz, 1741.
19 Richard Price, non-conformist minister and writer, died London, 1791.
21 Henri-Michel-Anthoine Chapu, French sculptor, died Paris, 1891.
23 James Buchanan, 15th president of the USA 1857-61, born Cove Gap, Pennsylvania, 1791.
24 Helmuth von Moltke, German soldier, died Berlin, 1891.



Channel crossing: an illustration commemorating "Speaking to Paris from London at the completion of the Anglo-French Telephone". The first submarine telephone lines were laid across the English Channel on Saturday, March 14, 1891 and opened on April 1. *The Times* said that "the commercial success of the enterprise is, we understand, already assured"

MAY

25 Pauline Lucca, Austrian soprano, born Vienna, 1841.
27 Samuel Morse, American pioneer of electric telegraphy and inventor of the code bearing his name, born Massachusetts, 1791.

JUNE

1 Sir David Wilkie, painter, died at sea off Gibraltar, 1841. Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain founded, 1841. Sir Hugh Walpole, novelist, died near Keswick, 1941.
4 Wilhelm II, German emperor 1888-1918, died Doorn, The Netherlands, 1941.
6 Sir John Alexander Macdonald, first prime minister of Canada 1867-73, 1878-91, died Ottawa, 1891.
9 John Howard Payne, American playwright and actor, born New York, 1791.
17 Selina Hastings, Countess of Huntingdon, Methodist, died London, 1791.
22 Second world war: Germany invaded Russia, 1941.
26 Francisco Pizarro, Spanish conqueror of the Inca empire, murdered Lima, Peru, 1541.
27 Michiel van Mierevelt, Dutch portrait painter, died Delft, 1641.
28 Henry VIII, king of England 1509-47, born Greenwich, 1491.
29 Sir Henry Morton Stanley, journalist, explorer and politician, born Denbigh, 1841. Ignacy Paderewski, Polish pianist, prime minister of Poland 1919, died New York, 1941.
30 Sir Stanley Spencer, painter, born Cookham, Berks, 1891.

JULY

5 The first excursion by train: organised by Thomas Cook, it ran between Leicester and Loughborough, 1841.
7 Thomas Blacklock, poet, died Edinburgh, 1791.
10 Pedro Antonio de Alarcón y Ariza, Spanish writer, died Valdemoro, 1891.
11 Sir Arthur Evans, archaeologist, died Youghbury, Oxford, 1941.
17 *Punch* first published, 1841.
27 Mikhail Glinka, Russian poet and novelist, died Pyshtgorsk, 1841.
28 Antonio Vivanti, Italian composer, died Vienna, 1941.
31 Jacob Handl, Slovenian composer, died Prague, 1591.

AUGUST

2 Sir Arthur Bliss, composer, Master of the Queen's Music 1953-75, born London, 1891.
3 Leslie Henson, actor, born London, 1891.
4 William Henry Hudson, naturalist and writer, born Quilmes, Argentina, 1841.
6 Henry Litolff, French pianist and composer, died Bois-le-Combes, 1891. William Joseph Slim, 1st Viscount Slim, field marshal, governor-general of Australia 1953-60, born 1891.
7 Sir Rabindranath Tagore, Indian writer, 1913 Nobel laureate, died Calcutta, 1941.
11 Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Atlantic Charter, 1941.
12 James Russell Lowell, American poet, critic and diplomat, died Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1891.
14 Johann Friedrich Herbart, German philosopher, died Göttingen, 1841.
17 Richard Lalor Sheil, playwright and politician, born Drumdowney, Co. Kilkenny, 1791.
22 Jean-François de Galaup La Pérouse, French explorer, born Albi, 1741. Jacques Lipchitz, Russian/French sculptor, born Druskininkai, 1891.
24 Theodore Edward Hook, playwright and novelist, died London, 1841. Robert Herrick, poet, born London, 1591.

SEPTEMBER

4 Albert Joseph Moore, painter, born York, 1841.
5 Giacomo Meyerbeer, German composer, born Berlin, 1791.
7 Henri Desmarests, French composer, died Lorraine, 1741.
8 Antonín Dvořák, Czech composer, born Nelahozeves, 1841.

OCTOBER

9 William Theed, sculptor, died London, 1891.
11 Arthur Young, agriculturist, born London, 1741.
13 William Henry West Betty, the "Young Roscius", actor, born Shrewsbury, 1791.
21 London-Brighton railway opened, 1841.
22 Michael Faraday, natural philosopher, born Surrey, 1791.
23 Theodor Körner, German poet, born Dresden, 1791.
24 Paracelsus, German physician and alchemist, died Salzburg, 1541.
26 Théodore Géricault, French painter, born Rouen, 1791.
27 Ivan Aleksandrovich Goncharov, Russian novelist, died Leningrad, 1891.
28 Georges Clemenceau, premier of France 1917-20, born Mouilleron-en-Pareds, 1841. Herman Melville, American novelist, died New York, 1891.
30 Georges Boulanger, French general and statesman, died Brussels, 1891.

NOVEMBER

4 Edmund Malone, critic and author, born Dublin, 1741.
6 Charles Stewart Parnell, Irish leader of the Home Rule Party, died Brighton, 1891. William Henry Smith, statesman, died Walmer Castle, Kent, 1891.
11 James Barry, painter, born 1741.
20 Sir James Chadwick, physicist, 1935 Nobel laureate, born Manchester, 1891.
28 Francesco Morlacchi, Italian composer and conductor, died Innsbruck, 1841.
29 Fanny Brice, singer and comedienne, born New York, 1891.
30 Angelica Kauffmann, historical and portrait painter, born Coire, Switzerland, 1741.

DECEMBER

1 George Birkbeck, physician and founder of mechanical institutions, died London, 1841.
4 The *Observer* first published, 1791.
5 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer, died Vienna, 1791.
7 Second world war: Japanese aircraft bombed Pearl Harbor, 1941.
11 Second world war: the USA declared war on Japan.
9 Sir Anthony van Dyck, painter and etcher, died London, 1641. Peter Joseph von Lindpaintner, German composer and conductor, born Koblenz, 1791.
10 Haged Alexander, 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis, field marshal, governor-general of Canada 1946-52, born London, 1891.
Second world war: HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse sunk by Japanese aircraft, 1941.
11 Second world war: the USA declared war on Germany and Italy, 1941.
14 Charles Wolfe, poet, born Blackhall, Co. Kildare, 1791.
19 Vitus Bering, Danish navigator, died Bering Island, 1741.
25 Eugène Scribe, French playwright, born Paris, 1791.
16 Henry Miller, American writer, born New York, 1891.
30 Robert Boyle, natural philosopher and chemist, died London, 1691.

JACK LONSDALE

THE PIONEER OF PRINTED ENGLISH

Early days: lines from a book printed by William Caxton in 1480

William Caxton, the first English printer, died in London in 1491.

Caxton is important, not so much as a printer, but because he published in English instead of Latin. He was born in Kent in 1422 and, after apprenticeship to a fabrics dealer, moved to Bruges. He did not print a book until he was in his fifties. Having learnt his trade in Cologne, he set up a press in about 1474 and his first book, *Recuyell of the Histories of Troye*, his own translation from the French, was published in Bruges in 1475. Towards the end of 1476, Caxton returned to England and established his press at Westminster. By the time of his death he had published about 90 books, among them two editions of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and Sir Thomas Malory's *Kyng Arthur*.

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BRIEFING

Jury was not hung

IS IT not marvellous what a little bit of interior redecoration can do for a person's public image? Such redecoration has won Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, the title of "Londoner of the Year". The title, courtesy of the *Illustrated London News*, was awarded to Serota for his rehanging of the gallery's pictures. He received the honour against formidable competition: theatrical producer Cameron Mackintosh, design guru Sir Terence Conran, Lord Prior (for his fund-raising for Great Ormond Street Hospital), Major Mike Parker (who organised the extravaganza for the Queen Mother's birthday), and even the Queen Mother herself. But it was a year for curators: Denis Farr of the Courtauld and Giles Waterfield of Dulwich Picture Gallery were also runners-up.

Tough trouper

AFTER yanking the tears in her cinema remake of *Stella Dallas*, Bette Midler is clearly game for anything. One of the actresses' future productions, *Tulsa*, takes place during the Chinese Boxer Rebellion; Midler stars as a music-hall singer who gets involved in murder and mayhem on arriving in the country with a botanical expedition. The film on the immediate horizon, though, is *For the Boys*, the story of a touring song-and-dance team. Even here, the script calls on her to tap her feet off, survive three wars (the second world war, Korea, Vietnam) and slide into old age.



Bette Midler: daunting roles

Still vacant

HOPES of a British artistic director for London Contemporary Dance Theatre seem to have vanished. Jonathan Lunn, who was appointed associate director a year ago, has been told that he will not be offered the top job, made vacant by Dan Wagoner's decision to return to America after only 18 months in Britain. Lunn will be in charge of a LCDT season at The Place in April but has decided to resign after that. Negotiations continue for Wagoner's successor: an announcement is likely at the end of January.

Last chance . . .

IN BRIAN Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* a pagan harvest festival is being celebrated offstage, and its reverberations are powerfully felt among the Christians of 1936 Donegal. This memoir of an Irish childhood has delighted almost everybody with its mix of warmth and wildness, and is sure to be revived in the years to come. Meanwhile, Patrick Mason's production ends its too short run at the Lyttelton, National Theatre (071-928 2252), tomorrow.

THEATRE

Wit and wisdom of the other Alf

Actor Warren Mitchell, television's Alf Garnett for 25 years, is back in the West End in Pinter's *The Homecoming*. He talks to Lauris Morgan-Griffiths about his life and career

Warren Mitchell searches for a way of defining his craft. "The best things I've done I've never had to agonise over." He cites Willy Loman in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* as "probably the greatest role I'll ever play. I knew enough about Willy from the moment I read the play. My father had been a salesman, not all that successful. And it wasn't difficult for me, being a father with aspirations for your children: all that part of it was absolutely there."

"The same with Alf Garnett. I knew the man. I had worked at Euston Station as a porter, and at Walls ice cream factory on the night shift. With so many jobs I had done to fill in, there was always a barrack-room lawyer saying [Mitchell slips into Alf's voice] 'If you are in-jured in the pursu-ance of your duty . . .'"

The highest accolade for his performance as Willy came from Arthur Miller himself: "I don't know how you do it, Warren. You are Willy." But if Mitchell did achieve the perfect transformation, it was by virtue of astonishing acting technique. He knows where a character begins and ends, even if the public fails to make the same distinction, and persists in identifying him with Johnny Speight's loud-mouthed bigot.

Warren Mitchell talks easily as he reminisces about his family and his career. Now a grandfather, he is firmly rooted in his family. His own grandparents came to Britain from Russia in 1910, and worked in the fish trade. Mitchell recalls the fish and chips of his boyhood. His mother would take him to his uncle's fish bar and order "two haddock and chips" with an exaggerated wink. It was years later that Mitchell learned the significance of that wink: they were eating skate, a forbidden fish in the Jewish religion.

He is no longer a practising Jew. He loves the people, the jokes, the patter, the food, but he also loves shellfish, oysters and skate. He did not think he ever believed, but he admits that ten years ago, when lying semi-paralysed in an Australian hospital, he made a pact with God. If he walked again, he would give up cigarettes. He is now a non-smoker.

Perhaps it was his mother who first saw the character actor in the young Warren. She sent him to singing and dancing classes at the age of seven, and together they went regularly to the Palladium to see the variety greats: Max Miller, Tommy Trinder, the Crazy Gang.

He is inclined to pessimism about the whole future of theatre. He sees London theatre going the way of Broadway, with dramatically arid musicals. Two of his three children are now on the stage, and he did not try to dissuade them. "How could I? I've had such a good time myself."

Bringing up two children in a two-room flat was no fun. "I never had that gritty determination, but I never gave up trying. I'm not an artist at heart. I'm a bourgeois. I have a notion of supporting my wife and family and living reasonably comfortably." So if he was not acting he would find work wherever he could: from factory-floor to selling women's hats on a market stall. "I never really did believe that I would earn a living from acting."

Success can come in funny packages. Mitchell's overnight success as Alf Garnett was a two-edged sword. It brought him enormous fame — the character has entered the British psyche — and fortune. Mitchell describes it as having "subsidised my art's career". But it also brought about a fear of being overwhelmed by an alter ego, akin to the ventriloquist's fear of being taken over by the dummy.

For 25 years, Alf has railed against Heath, Wilson, Callaghan and Thatcher. But there are no plans for Major's Britain. "I love Alf, he's a great monster creation, and he epitomises that wonderful contradiction of the working-class Tory. One of the greatest lines Johnny Speight ever wrote for him was 'My dad's granddad borrowed a pair of boots to walk 14 miles to vote Tory'." The series is in limbo at the present: the BBC has told Speight and Mitchell that it has not been axed — but it is not in next year's schedules.

There is no way that Mitchell could be said to feel his way into a character. "Olivier and Richardson never gave master classes because they didn't know how they did it. I would find it very difficult to teach what I do. What I do is read it and read it, and hope that some inspiration is going to come. With *King Lear* I didn't get it until I put the clothes on."

His way of forming a character in his mind is to read the script every day for new nuances. He also devotes a daily half-hour to yoga, to keep his body in trim and to ease the pain in his prosthetic hip. There are signs of the extro/introvert, the yin and yang in him: the extrovert that took him into acting in the first place; the loner instinct that attracted him to walking and

cross-country running. He has been grounded from these activities because of his hip, but he loves losing himself in the world of books. Enjoying Joseph Heller's and Philip Roth's characters, he slips away from the theatre at night to join their fictional company.

If his life had a turning-point, it came early on. During the war he met Richard Burton; they were RAF cadets together in Canada. Setting up stalls for an open day once, Burton could not resist getting up on the stage and reciting Shakespeare. Watching the look on people's faces, especially the girls, convinced Mitchell that was what he wanted to do. In 1947, he was accepted at RADA.

Tony Hancock was another influence: incidental but important. Hancock's *Half Hour* was transcribed live. Hancock died on one occasion, and Mitchell was quick-witted enough to bale him out. Hancock gratefully insisted Mitchell was to become a regular fixture in the series — usually appearing, for some reason, as a sinister foreigner.

"Comedy comes from conflict, from hatred," says Mitchell. "Hancock hated Sid James for not recognising him as a star. In fact, Hancock hated the world." But when Mitchell defines comedy, he is referring to English comedy: of the considerably less savage variety than American television he is no admirer. He may appreciate the polish, the honing of the script, but from the Cosbys to the Golden Girls "not for one moment does it touch real life. For me, it isn't funny."

Mitchell's latest challenge is Pinter's *The Homecoming*. The play is about close but abrasive families, rejection, cruelty, suppressed violence and sex. And it is funny. On the regional tour which has preceded the London run, Mitchell (playing Max, the father) has been concentrating on "getting the size of the man". He is "a sort of demonic Alf. He's a bastard."

Mitchell sees the play, set in the East End he knows so well, as a portrait of a Jewish family closing ranks against a *shiksa* (dismissive term for a female gentile) being brought into the household by the returning successful son. "There is a wonderful golden vein of Jewish comedy at the opening of Act II."

He is directed here by Sir Peter Hall, which is an experience he has found highly educational. "I do not have his knack with people. He never raises his voice. He smiles and holds his corner, does not give way. He has that knack of putting you totally at your ease. I have that knack of putting people's backs up."

● *The Homecoming* is at the Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, London SW1 (071-867 1045) from Thursday.



Mitchell: "I'm a bourgeois . . . supporting my family and living comfortably."

OPERA REPERTOIRE

Collywobbles at the Coliseum's sale of the century

WITH *The Love for Three Oranges* rightly packing them in, and with *Madam Butterfly* about to open, the English National Opera can draw breath at this half-way stage in its season devoted to 20th-century works and occasional Mozart. There is the comfort, too, of the appreciation recently registered by the Arts Council, and of the support which the company's commercial sponsors, defying common assertions, have given to uncommon repertory and daring productions.

But it is no secret that the audience response to some productions in the adventurous autumn repertory was disappointing, even if success in this area is difficult to quantify. After all, if

the company had simply wanted to fill the house, it would never have embarked on such a season at all: nobody could have hoped that *Fennimore and Gerda*, *Greek* and *Doktor Faust* would be such easy box-office hits as *La Bohème* and *Rigoletto*. And indeed the ENO budgeted, sagely if sadly, for lower turn-outs this season.

The problem is that even those low expectations have in some cases not been met. *Doktor Faust*, for which an average house of 55 per cent capacity was anticipated, in fact reached only 46 per cent. The company, inevitably, would rather interpret the figures in a positive light, pointing to a total of 14,000 people who have seen *Wozzeck*, and that must be

counted a real achievement.

It is also important not to see financial results as a marker of artistic success. The ENO has had a couple of productions this season that were less wonderful than might have been hoped, but that was unavoidable when the whole purpose of this 20th-century celebration was to move away from the tried and true. What is more important is that the key-stone operas of this century, *Wozzeck* and *Pelléas and Mélisande*, have been presented in superb musical performances, that works by three living composers are being staged during the season, and that a major national company is concentrating its resources on the still recent past and on the

present. Poor box-office returns are a mean way by which to judge a venture of such imagination and potential cultural fruitfulness.

But of course the finances cannot be overlooked. For one thing, the company has to survive. For another, low audiences mean that a great many opportunities are being missed for people to experience the range of challenge, excitement and beauty within 20th-century opera. Quite possibly the ENO has fallen victim to the present recession, and that higher seat prices, coupled with diminished expendable incomes, have warned off the audiences that could have been expected three or four years ago, when this season was in planning.

It could be, too, that despite all the London Underground advertising there are still people who go regularly to the theatre and cinema but switch off when they notice the word "opera". They do not realise that the ENO's current season, at least, has very little to do with obese consumptives taking ten minutes over their dying gasps: that many of the works in this season are closer to spoken drama than to traditional opera, and that opera companies, not least the ENO, have taken the lead in the revolution in theatrical production in this country since the early 1970s.

Therefore, it may be necessary to point out just what is on offer at the Coliseum during the next six

months: David Pountney's nursery dreamworld staging of *Rusalka* and his enchanting *Cunning Little Vixen*, Joachim Herz's starkly dramatic version of the Wilde-Strauss *Salome*; a new double-bill of *Oedipus Rex* and *Bluebeard's Castle* directed by David Alden and therefore guaranteed to divide opinion fiercely; the premiere of Stephen Oliver's *Timon of Athens*, and a hugely promising new production of *Peter Grimes*, directed by Tim Albery and with Philip Langridge leading the cast. With all this and more in prospect, it is very hard to feel gloomy about the ENO's present artistic aims and achievements.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

OPERA IN EDUCATION

Hard lessons in the workshops

Operatic projects in the classroom require more than just enthusiasm, says Hilary Finch

Electricity is going public with a vengeance. Hard on the heels of the big national sell-off, East Midlands Electricity is now finding itself heavily over-subscribed: in the classroom. As the result of a substantial and shrewd sponsorship move by the Royal Opera's education department, schools in the Buckinghamshire Education Authority suddenly find themselves designing costumes, improvising music-dramas, and confronting forces of good and evil in preparation for a visit to Covent Garden's *Magic Flute* in March.

As the hype and counter-hype of the Mozart bicentenary celebrations rise to fever pitch, the *Flute* has never had it so good. In the space of one short season, it is being taken apart and put together again by no fewer than three major British opera companies, diligently seeking to save their souls and their bank balances by investing in educational projects in scores of venues.

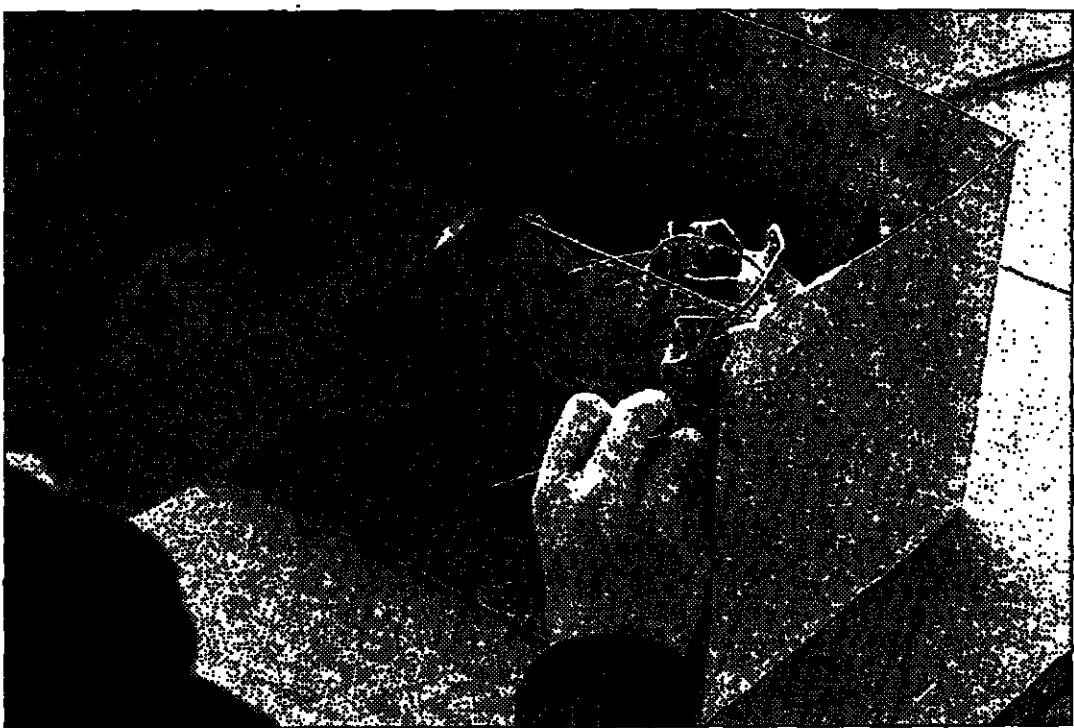
The Royal Opera's *Flute* project offers a package of an introductory workshop followed by four days of participatory work on any aspect of opera chosen by the individual school. While pressure from implementing the National Curriculum is making teachers reluctant to add to their workload by taking

school groups to the opera, the use of visiting teams from Covent Garden as a cross-curricular resource earns extra attainment-oriented "brownie points".

At the Stantonbury campus in Milton Keynes, the *Flute* means investigating the skills of stage fighting. At Ousedale School, Bernard Haitink's daughter, Ingrid, is working on movement, with a view to a full-blown music drama. Frank Markham School, with 1,300 students in inner city Milton Keynes, has chosen the closer focus of costume design. As I watched a large group of mixed ability 12-year-olds being coached in draughtsmanship and colour consciousness by Francis O'Connor, one of the Royal Opera's design team, it became clear that Covent Garden could have a new role to play in supplementing art provision in the state sector. Quite what it did for opera was less obvious.

The children were told the tale of the three characters they were painting but, apart from a tape cassette running on meaninglessly in the background, not a note of their respective arias was used as stimulus. The opera company's own design department could well have stolen a few ideas from the pageant of birdcage Papagenos, skinhead Monostatoses and marquis Queens of Night that was produced, but the long-term return on this investment seemed in doubt. Only one school, apparently, had requested a composition workshop, and the Royal Opera can hardly be blamed for not providing what is not requested.

Glyndebourne, on the other hand, goes straight to the heart of the matter. The workshops offered



Designing a set: a pupil at Denbigh School, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, works on *The Magic Flute*

by Glyndebourne Touring Opera on their autumn travels may be comparatively small scale, ostensibly conventional. But a primarily musical approach pays dividends. Working with a group of 16-year-olds, director Stephen Medcalf, singers Chris Thornton-Holmes and Susannah Waters, and répétiteur Nancy Cooley combine a session of physical improvisation with skilfully inter-cut investigations into the nature of opera itself.

Preconception and rejection are gently eroded by explorations of topics such as what makes for the particular character of an "operatic", un-amplified voice, or what makes an opera different from a musical. In seizing on the central point that all information in opera comes first of all from the music, and that the orchestra is a soundtrack for every passing emotion, Glyndebourne's education programme was able to leap ahead to surprisingly complex questions of communication

dealt with in *The Magic Flute*. The step was easy, too, from exploring the frustrated non-communication between Tamino and Pamina, and the moral ambiguity of the Queen of Night, to selling Glyndebourne's Peter Sellars production as it continued its tour. With so much potential in purely musical communication, who needs words? (All the dialogue is cut in this production.)

Glyndebourne, then, scores high on both PR and pedagogy. Opera 80, though, wins all the prizes for enlightened, even altruistic educational promotion. The company's unique selling point is an opportunity, within a gruelling three-month itinerary, to bring full-blown, although entirely portable, productions to parts of the country which opera would otherwise never reach. Not content with show-storming Britain from Ulverston to Uttoxeter, and working in 50 schools in the process, the company has also developed a Special Needs programme which is remarkable for

its disinterested philanthropy. There's little chance, after all, that ticket sales are going to be vastly increased by in-depth work with victims of cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis. Despite limited wheelchair access, most severely disabled adults simply lack a ready supply of transport and escorts to make opera-going a possibility. Opera 80's meticulously planned sessions are, however, an example of their kind. More vigorous musical and dramatic work was concentrated into a single day at the Winged Fellowship Trust's centre for the disabled near Nottingham than is often achieved in a week elsewhere.

Using harmonic sequences from the *Flute* itself as a basis for group composition, and exploiting the opera's transcendental themes as stimuli for close, experience-related narrative, the composer Stephen Endelman and three of the company's singers had created by the end of the day a taut, vividly paced piece of music drama.

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DANCE
The Nutcracker
Hippodrome,
Birmingham

AT LAST a staging of *The Nutcracker* that is fun to watch, full of dancing, clear and simple in its narrative, rich with colour and excitement. Birmingham Royal Ballet in this production has given its new home town a splendid Christmas present that will provide pleasure for years.

This is Peter Wright's second treatment of the ballet: the earlier one is at present on show at Covent Garden and the two are as different as could be. Even before it starts, Birmingham's *Nutcracker* gives a welcoming buzz of interest with John Macfarlane's front curtain. This is sustained by his imaginative new treatment of the traditional transformation scenes, especially when the Stahlbaum's drawing room grows and grows in little Clara's imagination, until the fireplace completely fills one wall and the Christmas tree has reached up almost out of sight: a marvellous effect.



Miyako Yoshida as the Sugar Plum Fairy with Petter Jacobsson as her cavalier in *The Nutcracker*

Clara now becomes unambiguously the leading character. In Wright's London *Nutcracker* she is meant to be an ordinary little girl and is played by a ballet student. The Birmingham Clara is described as a baller student (she brings all her classmates to dance at the party) but is played by a grown-up dancer. Just as well, since she has more dancing than anyone else in the ballet and a light on "magic white goose, too."

Sandra Madgwick at Saturday's gala premiere set a standard that will be hard to match for the ease, crispness and vivacity of her dancing and the warmth and responsiveness of her acting.

The other character to undergo a major change is Drosselmeyer. Theoretically he has been de-

scribed as a magician hired to entertain the party guests. But he has more than ever to do, starting with a series of conjuring tricks (effectively staged by John Wade), and remaining a focus of attention in Act II as a master of ceremonies for the dances in Clara's dream. Joseph Cipolla gives him a mysterious but twinkling authority.

Clara takes part in most of those dream dances, and has much to do in the first act too, partnered by a handsome and attentive young admirer. Wright has almost completely re-choreographed the ballet, with assistance from Vincent Redmond for the battle between the rats and toy soldiers — much fiercer than usual. All that remains

of Ivanov's original choreography is the last pas de deux, the Sugar Plum Fairy's solo (still without its *gammalade*, can nobody dance or teach them any longer?) and the red roses dance. Quite enough, most will think, to make the new choreography is the way it shows off the strength of the company, especially in its male dancers, including several newcomers. James Bailey as Drosselmeyer's assistant, capering with bizarre and alarming unpredictability, is one such. So are Yi Lei Cai as Clara's romantic admirer and Edwin Mota as a jack-in-the-box who springs, bounds and somersaults through an amazing solo.

One regret is that whoever dances the Sugar Plum Fairy has



James Morris as Wotan in the New York Metropolitan *Das Rheingold*

TELEVISION
Das Rheingold
Channel 4

FAST following the Munich Ring on BBC 2 comes the New York Metropolitan production, which Channel 4 is broadcasting rather more humbly over two consecutive weekends, with *Stiegfried* and *Götterdämmerung* to follow next Saturday and Sunday. This time there are no lecture-style preparations, but instead a different kind of bathetic intrusion in the inevitable commercial breaks every half hour or so. Otherwise the main differences are in the spacious tempos of James Levine's conducting, the rich detail his orchestra provides, and the ghastly sets and costumes, which

give the work the look of a low-budget sword-and-sorcery film. Quite possibly the warty, reptilian gear of Loge and the Nibelungs, the tiaras of the goddesses and the New Mexico Valhalla made some impression from a hundred yards or so away in the theatre for which this production was made, but in close-up and on the television screen the effect is tacky. Nor is the eye diverted by the interactions of the characters, since the director Otto Schenk, generally leaves people to stand by themselves and flail their arms about hopelessly. Billed as "naturalistic," the production looks, on the contrary, woefully staged and shoddy. Lehmkuhl in Munich, or Kupfer in Bayreuth, or Friedrich in London offers vastly more sense of these gods, dwarfs and people as natural beings.

The vocal performances in *Das*

Rheingold, too, were disappointing. The cast was essentially that of Levine's DC recording, though with James Morris sounding disturbingly wobbly as Wotan for all his strong tone, and with Christa Ludwig seeming very much in her twilight as Fricka. Ekkehard Walscha, normally so black an Alberich (as he was in the Munich video-recording), was curiously colourless; so was Heinz Zednik as Mime, while the casting of Siegfried Jerusalem as Loge appeared again, as it does on record, a gaping error. There were, of course, moments of success, notably from the giants and from the Donner, but these were glimmers of sunlight in a performance that, though oratorically superb, was visually disastrous and vocally dull.

THEATRE
Freudiana
Theater an der Wein,
Vienna

AFTER a considerable Austrian triumph at the Theater an der Wein with Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, Webber's former partner in the Really Useful Group, Brian Broly, now tries for the hat-trick there with the first home-grown Viennese megamusical. *Freudiana* comes in on a budget of £1 million, or thereabouts, and is essentially the story of a local psychiatrist made good, though neither Sigmund nor Sir Clement, nor even Emma Freud, puts in a personal appearance.

With a score by Eric Woolfson (his first for the stage) and a set

which seems to recall highlights from *Time*, this is an extravaganza for those who like their Freud unencumbered by too much analysis, and a psychiatric sing-along for those suffering from scenery obsessions. The concept, by Broly and Woolfson and Lide Winiewicz, is simplicity itself: a tourist (the German actor Ulrich Tukur, last seen locally as Hamlet) falls asleep on Freud's couch during a lightning tour of his consulting rooms and is then dragged through a nightmarish selection of the most famous case histories, before awakening to find himself so well readjusted that he is able to ask a fellow tourist at the airport for her home telephone number.

Within that skeletal and fragmented plot the makers of *Freudiana* have trapped themselves between two quite distinct musical genres. The score is rock-opera with aspirations towards a kind of *Psychiatric Express*, while

the *Pilgrim's Progress* form of the adventures harks back to a simpler 1960s world of Anthony Newley and "stop the psychiatry, I want to get off."

Those of us hoping for counter-harmonies about schizophrenia or a paranoid dot-dancing solo were left to recall that Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim said most of what is in *Freudiana* with the ten minutes of their "Circus Officer Krupke" from *West Side Story*. But this production is still very far from being the fiasco which reviews of the concept, or indeed the concept album, might have indicated.

Any musical with the courage to state the Oedipus triangle as a laser-beamed extravaganza has to be given some credit, and there is of course a long and honourable tradition in Europe for the medical musical — it was Molière himself who first put the songs into *Le Malade Imaginaire*.

But if *Freudiana* is to make the leap to the West End or Broadway it still needs considerable therapy: rapturously received by a Viennese audience understandably delighted to have one of their own citizens under the musical spotlight for the first time since the *Merry Widow* (unless, of course, you count *Amadeus*), this show remains for the present a resolutely local rather than international hit.

The show is never more characteristically eccentric than when having its hero encounter Sherlock Holmes on Baker Street Station for a brisk lesson in self-detection. As a *Candide* for the musically disturbed, and Peter Weck's production is a baroque monument to scenic energy, neurotically in key with the writing and the scoring.

NEW RELEASES

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) on release across the country.

NOTE: Please check with cinemas for changes in opening times during the Christmas week

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◆ **THE MAHABHARATA</**

BBC 1

6.55 The New Yogi Berra Show (r) 7.00 Hello Spencer (r) 7.25 The Pink Panther Show (r) 7.45 Poppy and Son (r)
 8.05 Film: A Gift for Heidi (1986) starring Sally Descher. Further adventures of the heroine of Joanna Spyn's classic novel. Directed by George Templeton
 9.20 Why Don't You...? Entertaining ideas for bored youngsters 9.50 Quiddly Up. A new series of cartoon 10.10 Playdays
 10.20 Puddles Up. A new series of cartoon 10.50 Playdays
 11.15 Film: The Crocodile. Tony Randall narrates an animated version of a story about the world's cleverest crocodile (r)
 11.15 Film: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971) starring Gene Wilder. Jack Albertson and Gene Wilder in the adaptation of his popular children's book about a small boy and his adventures in a chocolate factory. Wilder enjoys himself as the eccentric Willy and there are happy songs from Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley. Directed by Mel Stuart 12.55 Regional news and weather
 1.00 One O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey Weather
 1.10 Neighbours. (CeeFax) 1.30 Animal Sanctuary. The work of Gay and David Christie who have devoted their life to nursing sick and injured animals. Narrated by John King
 2.00 Film: Go to the Sun (1981) starring Robert Morley, Dave King and Daniel Massey. Three smash-and-grab specialists decide that their ideal getaway car would be a fire engine and enrol on a fire-fighting course. Average comedy, bolstered by an impressive cast of British comic stalwarts. Directed by Michael Truman
 3.20 That's Life's Talented Pets. Esther Rantzen presents a special selection of talented pets requested by the viewers of That's Life
 3.50 Film: Explorers (1985) starring River Phoenix, Ethan Hawke and Jason Presson. A young boy, obsessed with science-fiction, dreams of travelling into space and, to his amazement, his wish is granted. Joe Dante, who directed Gremlins and Innerspace, begins strongly but the story gets bogged down and ends weakly. The enjoyable playing of the young stars helps to compensate. (CeeFax)
 5.35 Neighbours (r) (CeeFax)
 6.00 One O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey Weather
 6.15 Regional News Magazines
 6.30 That's Showbusiness. A special edition of the entertainment quiz
 7.00 Wogan. Terry takes a look back over some of the guests he has had on the show during the year
 7.30 Dad's Army. Classic home Guard comedy from Jimmy Perry and David Croft (r) (CeeFax)
 8.00 What to Do. A special edition of the comedy series, with Lesley Dunlop taking over the part of Zoe. Alec (Anton Rodgers) reflects on the 25 years he has spent with the firm, where all his dealings have been concerned with leases, wills and divorces, and the chaos of producing his ad. Perry Mason (CeeFax)
 8.55 News with Philip Hutton. (CeeFax) Weather
 9.15 Film: Roxanne (1987) Steve Martin plays the fire chief of a small American town, where the biggest attraction is his huge nose. The residents and his inept fire crew provide much of the fun, but Martin's comic talent is given full reign, most memorably in the scene where he comes up with 20 insults about his nose. Martin was also the writer of this lively romantic comedy, adapted from Rosalind Wiseman's *Cyrano de Bergerac* and co-starring Daryl Hannah. Directed by Fred Schepisi. (CeeFax)
 11.00 Olive James on 1990. The party Aussie applies his wit to the events and personalities of the year. His targets include Helmut Kohl, Donald Trump, Mikhail Gorbachev and John Major
 12.00 Happy New Year. Ringing out the old with the chimes of Big Ben, followed by a New Year's message from the Archbishop of Canterbury
 12.10am Film: Carry On England (1975). The penultimate film in the Carry On series that misses the talents of Kenneth Williams, Hattie Jacques and Sid James. Directed by Gerald Thomas. (CeeFax)
 1.30 Weather

BBC 2

8.00 English Towns. Architectural historian Alec Clifton-Taylor visits Chichester in Sussex (r). (CeeFax)
 8.30 Wildlife Housewife. Amazing scenes of how the caribou cross the river in their battle for survival in the Quebec wilderness (r). (CeeFax)
 8.55 Film: Tarzan's Secret Treasure (1941). b/w Johnny Weissmuller, Maureen O'Sullivan and Johnny Sheffield star as the jungle hero. A conflict of feelings arises when Tarzan is saved by a scientific expedition which may also pose a threat to the peace of the jungle. Directed by Richard Thorpe
 10.15 Film: Murder She Said (1961). b/w An adaptation of Agatha Christie's novel 4.50 from Paddington starring Margaret Rutherford as Miss Marple and television Miss Marple, Joan Hickson, in a different role. Rutherford was hardly anyone's idea of the lady sleuth, all of the author's, but her boisterous playing enlivens this mystery involving a woman being strangled on a train. Directed by George Pollock
 11.35 Darts. Tony Gubba introduces highlights of the 1990 Embassy World professional darts championship final at the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green 12.55 Greenclaws (r)
 1.10 Review of the Year. Jonathan Dimbleby visits some places that have hit the headlines in 1990 and talks to personalities who have been in the news including the governor of Strangeways Prison and former England football manager, Bobby Robson (r)
 2.30 Beethoven Symphonies. The London Classical Players perform Symphony No 9 in D Minor, Op 125, the "Choral". Conducted by Roger Norrington
 3.35 Sports Illustrated's Year of Gold. David Coleman presents a celebration of Britain's achievements in athletics in 1990. Roger Black, Kriszta Kusz, Yvonne Murray, John Regis and Peter Elliot took part in the year and forward to the world championships in Tokyo
 4.30 Thank You Mr Cruff. Angela Rippon narrates the history of dog showing from its beginnings in London pubs to the first Cruff's dog show, founded by dog-food salesman Charles Cruff. She talks to Cruff's grandson and follows the fortunes of a terrier that was a contender for Supreme Champion last year
 5.10 Arana. Special. The Stones introduce and narrate their own story featuring unseen performances from their private archives Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts, Bill Wyman and relative newcomer Ron Wood provide personal commentaries on the highs and lows of the band's career (r)


Soprano Joan Sutherland and tenor Luciano Pavarotti (7.00pm)
 7.00 Die Fledermaus: La Spendola's Farewell. Joan Sutherland began her opera career at Covent Garden in 1952 and tonight she returns to say farewell. She appears as the "star guest" at Prince Orfisk's party in Act 1 and is joined by mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne and Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti. This live performance of Johann Strauss's opera includes a distinguished cast of singers with John Sessions making his opera debut in the spoken role of Froch. The translation is by John Mortimer who helps to introduce this glittering musical occasion
 10.50 A Life in Pieces. Sir Arthur Streeb-Greene (Peter Cook) chooses the sixth of his 12 Christmas gifts, prompted by Ludovic Kennedy
 10.55 Rolling Stones in Concert. A live concert recorded in the Olympic Stadium, Barcelona, during the recent Urban Jungle tour by the Rolling Stones
 12.25am Film: Young Frankenstein (1974). b/w Mel Brooks's madcap parody of the Thirteenth horror movie, carefully photographed in the black and white style of the original. Gene Wilder in a brilliant young brain surgeon who goes to Transylvania, where he falls under the spell of his grandfather's experiments and decides to recreate them. Also starring Marty Feldman, Madeline Kahn, Gene Hackman and Cloris Leachman. Directed by Mel Brooks. (CeeFax)
 2.10 Weather

BBC 3

6.00 TV-am with news bulletins on the hour and half hour 6.50 Weather
 9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man 9.50 Thames News and weather
 9.55 Film: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (1954). Kirk Douglas, James Mason and Paul Lukas star in a spectacular maritime adventure, based on Jules Verne's novel. Directed by Richard Fleischer
 12.25 Home and Away. Australian serial about a couple and their foster children 12.55 Thames News and weather
 1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather
 1.20 Disney Cartoon. The Robber Kitten
 1.30 Film: Condemned (1981). Michael Crawford is Woody Wilkins, the writer of Condemned comic books, who believes in testing out his hero's exploits before setting pen to paper. Mild spy spoof from the Disney studio, directed by Charles Jarrold
 3.10 News headlines 3.15 Thames News headlines 3.20 Families
 3.50 Film: Alice in Wonderland (1951) Disney's bright and beautiful cartoon version of Lewis Carroll's famous fantasy tale directed by Cyda Geronimi, Hamilton Luske and Wilfred Jackson. (CeeFax)
 5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers, hosted by Bob Holness
 5.40 News with Sandy Gall. (Oracle) Weather
 6.00 Home and Away (r)
 6.30 Thames News and weather
 7.00 Wish You Were Here...? Judith Chalmers travels across Europe on the Orient Express. She Taylor goes on a murder weekend in a Surrey hotel, and then Hawaii. Taylor samples the delights of a hotel where dolphins swim about with guests in the pool. (Oracle)
 7.30 Coronation Street. Catch up with the regulars at the Rovers. (Oracle)
 8.00 Strike It Lucky. A New Year edition of the high-tech game show with Michael Barrymore. The jackpot goes to charity


Puzzler: James Macpherson (left) and Mark McManus (8.30pm)
 8.30 Taggart: Rogues' Gallery.
 CHOICE: Abandoning its three-part format to follow the seasonal fashion for festive-length sagas, Taggart offers another enjoyably crafted puzzle, this time involving a Glasgow art gallery, drug dealers and a body recovered from a car crusher Stuart Hepburn's script introduces these three elements separately and bit by bit, thus challenging the audience to work out how they can be related. It is one of the oldest of narrative devices and one of the most reliable. Less of a tease, especially for connoisseurs of detective series, is Stuart Hepburn's script in a deck chair looking forward to three days leave. As he enjoys the sunshine, with a can of beer to hand, it is odds on that he will be back on duty almost before he can take the first swig. The usual strong cast includes Jack Galloway and Edith Brighthouse as the shifty gallery owner and his less than dutiful assistant. (Oracle)
 10.00 News with Sandy Gall. (Oracle) Weather
 10.15 Live from the London Palladium - Happy Birthday, Happy New Year. A variety spectacular to celebrate the eightieth year of the theatre. Today's stars, including Jim Dale, Bob Arthur, Michael Ball, Bobby Davro, Andrew O'Connor and Gary Wilmot, pay tribute to such golden oldies as Judy Garland, Sophie Tucker and Jack Buchanan. Plus contributions from Russ Abbot, Max Bygraves and Fifties' Favourites. (Oracle) Weather
 12.15am Film: Funny Lady (1975). Disappointing sequel to Funny Girl, the biopic of chorus girl turned Broadway star Fanny Brice. Barbra Streisand's performance is too chilly for the wit and warmth of the famous comedienne and the star's main asset, her singing voice, is compromised by overproduced numbers. Directed by Herbert Ross
 2.45 Film: The Sons of Katie Elder (1965). When their mother dies, the four sons of Katie Elder return to pay their respects to her and find she died penniless with someone else owing the family ranch. The boys set out to find the truth behind their mother's poverty and determine to put the Elder name back on the map. Brawling minor western from historian director, Henry Hathaway, starring John Wayne, Dean Jagger, Michael Anderson Jr and Earl Holliman as the four Elders.
 4.55 Back Track 90. Review of 1990's music scene, with trends, styles and events including the performance of "The Wall" in Berlin and the all-star line up at the Knebworth concert
 5.55 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Photography of the natural world accompanied by soothing music
 6.20 Business Daily 6.30 The Channel Four Daily
 9.25 Sesame Street
 10.25 Batman and Robin (b/w). Episode seven
 10.45 The Adventures of Tintin 11.00 Things To Come. A look into the future with Malcolm Bennett and Penny Singleton. (r)
 11.30 Tony Jacobi's Pro-Celebrity Golf. Henry Cooper and Sam Torrance form the Sportsman team against Tim Brooke-Taylor and Ronan Rafferty, the Entertainers
 12.30 The Case of the Silk King. When their Uncle Stan disappears in Thailand, Shaun and Tina investigate
 1.30 Film: Fitzcarraldo (1982)
 CHOICE: Werner Herzog's film about the dream of a penniless Indian to build an opera house in the jungle of Peru in 1900 is as bold and imaginative as the story it relates. At its heart is the extraordinary notion of hauling a boat over land from one river to another to exploit the rubber trees that will finance the project. Like his hero, Brian Sweeney Fitzgerald (known as Fitzcarraldo from local attempts to pronounce his name), Herzog discovered that it was one thing to devise a grandiose project and quite another to put it into operation. His original lead, Jason Robards, was forced to pull out because of illness. Mick Jagger left to fulfil other commitments. Location hazards included landslides, strikes, tribal wars and walkouts by the 5,000 extras. But Klaus Kinski replaced Robards and the film was eventually finished, to win wide acclaim and a top prize at the Cannes Film Festival
 4.20 Sleaze. Igor Savak's line drawings
 4.30 Countdown. The 21st series of the words and numbers game begins
 5.00 Hog Heaven. At Sturgis, south Dakota, 300,000 Hogs - Harley Davidson motorcycles - gather for the world's largest motorcycle rally
 5.30 Grampa. Animated film from the same stable as The Snowman, about an old man's adventures with his granddaughter. With the voices of Peter Ustinov and 12-year-old Emily Osborne
 6.00 Roseanne. Roseanne and husband Dan continue their wise-cracking way through the ups and downs of life (r)
 6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are Michael Palin and the singer Lisa Stansfield
 7.00 News and weather followed by All Rivers Run II. Episode three of the four-part Australian river-boat drama. (Teletext)
 8.00 Brookside. Early Liverpoolian soap. (Teletext)
 8.20 Film: Vegas. Giorgio (1982). Luciano Pavarotti plays an international opera star visiting America on a concert tour, losing his voice and falling for the doctor (Kathryn Harrold) who is treating him. Lavish musical romance, which reportedly cost £19 million and was a box office flop. But Pavarotti's charming performance and spirited rendering of a string of operatic classics are worth switching on for. Directed by Franklin J. Schaffner


Blackpool's singing drag queen: Neville Sinclair (10.35pm)
 10.35 Old Faces.
 CHOICE: Talent night at the Queen's Hotel in Blackpool features a singing drag queen, twin sisters in their late sixties doing a strange and a bumbling singer and a bumbling singer. It is safe to say that if Mark Chapman had not made a film about them, none would have been seen on television. They are would-be pros who never made it and amateurs who never will. Yet for the patrons of the Queen's, mostly elderly like themselves, they offer a joyous evening of brash, bawdy and uncomplicated entertainment. For some dressing up and performing before an audience is a paradoxical release from shame. For others it is simply a ball. Much of the fascination of Chapman's film is revealing the real person behind the make-up. The stage drunk is a driving instructor, the sad-faced clown runs an aerobics class and the latter-day Tommy Cooper serves in the hotel restaurant
 11.35 VeggieTales: New Year's Eve Big Night Out. VeggieTales and Bob the Tomato entertain from 10 to the next with their own brand of humour
 12.20am Squeeze in concert at the Newcastle City Hall
 1.25 UB40 Plays The Blues. The band concludes its world tour with a concert at Birmingham City football ground. Guests include The Pogues and Robert Palmer (r). Ends at 3.20

ITV VARIATIONS

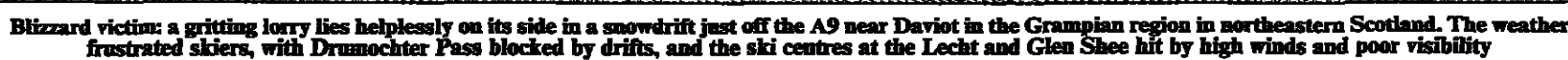
ANGLIA
 As London except: 1.30pm-3.10 Film: Starbuck and Sweet William 5.25-7.00 Anglia News
BORDER
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Take the High Road 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 The Saturday Night Takeaway 8.30-9.00 Film: The Salamander
CENTRAL
 As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Central News
CHANNEL
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Channel News at Six 6.30-7.00 The Dodo Christmas Club
GRANADA
 As London except: 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 12.15am Film: The Sons of Katie Elder 2.30-3.30 Film: The Salamander 5.25-5.55 The Cat in the Hat
HTV WEST
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters

S4C

6.00am The Art of Landscape 6.30-7.00am The Art of Landscape 7.00-7.30am The Art of Landscape 7.30-8.00am The Art of Landscape 8.00-8.30am The Art of Landscape 8.30-9.00am The Art of Landscape 9.00-9.30am The Art of Landscape 9.30-10.00am The Art of Landscape 10.00-10.30am The Art of Landscape 10.30-11.00am The Art of Landscape 11.00-11.30am The Art of Landscape 11.30-12.00am The Art of Landscape 12.00-12.30am The Art of Landscape 12.30-1.00am The Art of Landscape 1.00-1.30am The Art of Landscape 1.30-2.00am The Art of Landscape 2.00-2.30am The Art of Landscape 2.30-3.00am The Art of Landscape 3.00-3.30am The Art of Landscape 3.30-4.00am The Art of Landscape 4.00-4.30am The Art of Landscape 4.30-5.00am The Art of Landscape 5.00-5.30am The Art of Landscape 5.30-6.00am The Art of Landscape 6.00-6.30am The Art of Landscape 6.30-7.00am The Art of Landscape 7.00-7.30am The Art of Landscape 7.30-8.00am The Art of Landscape 8.00-8.30am The Art of Landscape 8.30-9.00am The Art of Landscape 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By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Labour ahead, page 2



**FROM MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW**

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard
TORREUTIC

TOREUTIC

a. Finding by questioning

ENEQUATUR
a. Close to the Equator
b. An official passport
c. Reverse quadratic equation

ROLLADE
a. A Swiss roll
b. A window shutter

C. A round helmet
IPSEDINETIST

AA ROADWATCH

London: & SE traffic, roadworks

C London (within N & S Circs.)
M-ways/roads M4-M1
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23
M-ways/roads M23-M4
M25 London Orbital only ..

National traffic and roundworks
National motorways
West Country ..
Wales ..
Midlands ..
East Anglia ..
North-west England ..
North-east England ..

Scotland
Northern Ireland

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER Many areas of southern and central England will be cloudy with rain, heavy in places. Clearer, drier weather from the South-West will reach many of these areas by evening. The rest of England and Wales will have sunny periods with showers. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have blustery showers with snow over hills; gales will moderate. Outlook: rain, followed by brighter spells and showers.

AEROAD[illegible]

Yesterday Temp. was 6 mm in 1

men 6 pm to 8 pm, GC (43F). Humidity 6 pm, 74.	Kent Surrey, Sussex	702
men 6 pm to 8 pm, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.13 in Sun; 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.1 hr	Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
men 6 pm to 8 pm, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1.0162	Devon & Cornwall	704
Saturday: Temp: men 6 am to 6 pm, 3C (46F)	Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Som	705
men 6 pm to 8 pm, GC (46F). Humidity 6 pm, 92	Wilt, Dorset, Devon	706
men 6 pm to 8 pm, 0.48 in. Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, 6 pm, 1.01	Beds, Herts & Essex	707
men 6 pm to 8 pm, mean sea level, 6 pm, 5989	Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
mobs. near	West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
1,000 million; 29.53n.	Shrops, Herefords & Worcs	710
	Central Ireland	711

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day to go: Harrogate, 11C	Dryad & Powys	714
East Sussex, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Airedale, 6C (43F)	Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
Amersham, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Cheshire, 1.4in	N W England	716
Channel Islands: Lowest: highest sunshine: Tynemouth, Tynd and Wey, 5.4 hr	North & Dorset	717
	N E England	718
	Cumbria & Lake District	719
	S W Scotland	720
	W Central Scotland	721
	Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
	E Central Scotland	723
	Glasgow & E Highlands	724
	N W Scotland	725
	Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726

Yesterday Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 5

Mon 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (35¢) Rent 24hr to 6 pm,
0.02 in Sun 24 hr to 6 pm 0.1 hr

THE NEW SAT ANSWER KEY

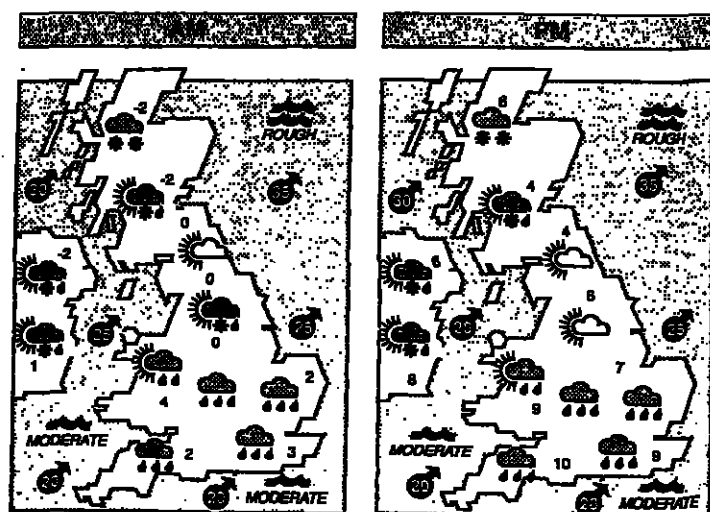
For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Kent, Surrey, Sussex

Devon and Cornwall	704
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Some	705
Borika, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Northants, Rutland, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glouc & Gwent	709
Hereford & Worcester	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
S & S W Yorks & Champs	717
N England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
East & Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
Highland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Northwest, Orkney & Shetland	726

Weathercall is charged at 33p per min.

(cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other

[illegible]

YESTERDAY

Temperature at 10 p.m., 11 p.m., 12 a.m.

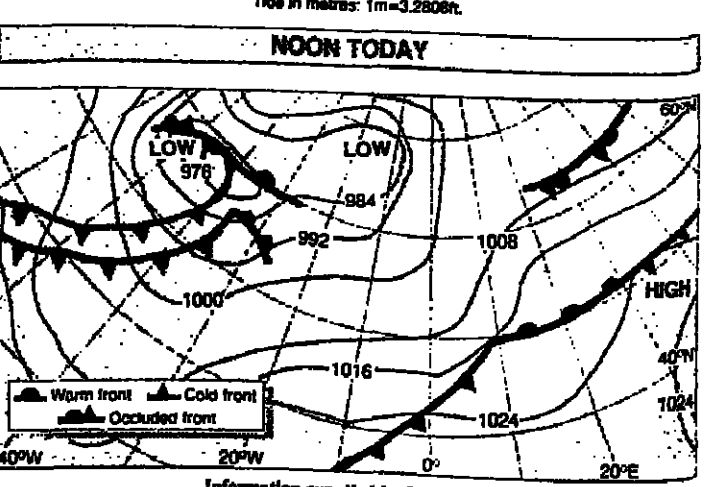
	C	F		C	F
Belfast	37	10	Guernsey	48	12
Birmingham	37	10	Jersey	48	12
Blackpool	37	10	London	48	12
Bristol	37	10	London	48	12
Cardiff	37	10	London	48	12
Edinburgh	38	10	Newcastle	48	12
Glasgow	41	11	Perthshire	43	11

LIGHTING UP TIME

London 4.31 pm to 7.36 am
Belfast 4.41 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.18 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.29 pm to 7.55 am
Perthshire 4.58 pm to 7.51 am

Sun sets:	4.01 pm
Moon sets:	8.35 pm

Sun sets:	8.06 am
Moon sets:	8.04 am

[illegible]

Information supplied by Met Office

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Hong Kong
inflation
'should fall
to 8.5%

Video chain: 5002

Ireland's largest

has been "one of the
some of its own
The sale also
work Leasing
that rents video
less throughout
China's northern
suffered attack

months

THE POLICE
CHANGE OF VIEW
US dollar
1923-1933
W German mark
1923-1933

Exchange

STOCK MARKET

May 1961

TOURIST RATES

13

[illegible]

MONDAY DECEMBER 31 1990

Ten knights win City spurs in New Year's honours

By OUR CITY STAFF

PATRICK Sheehy, chairman of BAT Industries, is one of ten businessmen awarded a knighthood in the New Year's Honours List.

The multi-lingual leader of the tobacco and insurance empire, which owns Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, is to retire in 1993. He defended his company, which, 18 months ago, was the subject of a £13.5 billion takeover bid from Sir James Goldsmith, but succumbed to shareholder pressure to sell Argos, the store business, and Vaggins Teape, the paper company.

A knighthood also goes to one of Sir Patrick's former colleagues, Sydney Liveworth, now chairman of the Monop-



City knights: Sir Patrick of BAT, Sir Eric of Trafalgar House, Sir Lewis of Triplex Lloyd, Sir David of the SIB, Sir Jeffrey of Price Waterhouse, Sir Sydney of the MMC



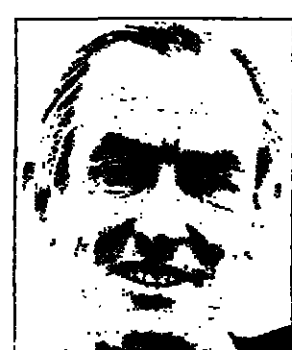
ties and Mergers Commission and until recently deputy chairman of Allied Dunbar and a director of BAT. Sir Sydney has spoken out this year on his concerns over



merger policy in Europe. David Walker, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board and a fellow regulator of the City, is similarly honoured. Sir David has



been chairman of SIB since 1988 and a director of the Bank of England since 1982. He is a non-executive director of National Power and spent the bulk of his career with the



Treasury. Eric Parker, group chief executive and deputy chairman of Trafalgar House since 1983, also becomes a knight. Trafalgar House is one of the biggest corporate



contributors to the Conservative party. Sir Eric, who was born and brought up in a council house in Shrewsbury, is well known for his cellar of fine claret. Alastair Morton, the outspoken deputy chairman and chief executive of Eurotunnel, receives a knighthood. A spokesman for Sir Alastair, who is on holiday in the Caribbean, said: "I have

spoken to him, and he is very pleased with recognition of the great efforts that have gone into the achievement of the Channel tunnel so far."

André Bénard, his French counterpart, receives an honorary knighthood but will not be entitled to call himself "Sir".

Knighthoods also go to Jeffrey Bowman, senior partner at Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, since 1982. Colin Barker, chairman of the British Technology Group, Lewis Robertson, CBE, chairman of Triplex Lloyd, Jeremy Rowe, CBE, chairman of the Occupational Pensions Board and Professor John Cadogan, CBE, director of research at British Petroleum.

Hong Kong inflation 'should fall to 8.5%'

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

INFLATION in Hong Kong should fall from double figures to 8.5 per cent next year, and the gross domestic product grow by 3.6 per cent in real terms, according to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The bank expects a significant improvement for the Hong Kong economy, which the government said would grow by about 2.3 per cent this year. The Consumer Price Index is expected to average 9.7 per cent for this year.

Alan McLean, Hong Kong Bank's chief economist, said the forecasts were on the assumption that oil prices next year would be in the \$25-35 per barrel range, and that there would be a general slowdown in the world economy. He said Hong Kong's growth would be led by strong exports, especially goods made in China, and increased private consumption.

Hong Kong recorded a gdp growth rate of 2.3 per cent last year, with inflation averaging 10.1 per cent.

Hong Kong had a trade deficit of HK\$268 million (£17.92 million) in the first 11 months, but its spectacular performance in re-exports, which account for more than 60 per cent of trade, may tip the balance by the end of the year. Re-exports are expected to rise by 12.5 per cent for the full year and domestic exports to fall by 0.5 per cent. Imports are forecast to rise by 8.7 per cent.

Hong Kong's invisible trade has had a favourable balance for at least five years. The surplus grew to HK\$33.8 billion last year and is expected to be HK\$34.8 billion this year.

Video chain sold
XTRA-VISION, Northern Ireland's largest video chain, has been bought by a consortium of businessmen and some of its own managers. The sale also includes Network Leasing, the subsidiary that rents video tapes to outlets throughout Ireland. The chain's northern outlets have suffered attacks in recent months.

THE POUND

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.9223 (+0.0383)
W German mark 2.8781 (-0.0073)
Exchange index 93.2 (+0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1685.2 (-3.2)

FT-SE 100

2160.4 (-4.0)

New York Dow Jones

2629.21 (-4.45)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

23848.71 (-270.89)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.55	2.40
Austria Sch	21.25	19.85
Belgium Fr	65.25	58.25
Canada \$	2.33	2.18
Denmark Kr	11.83	10.95
France Fr	7.54	6.95
Germany DM	10.20	9.80
Greece Dr	364	340
Hong Kong \$	15.45	14.95
Italy Lit	132	125
Japan Yen	272.5	262.5
Netherlands Gld	11.80	11.10
Norway Kr	11.80	11.10
Portugal Esc	200	190
South Africa Rd	5.20	4.70
Spain Ptas	161	150
Sweden Kr	11.81	11.10
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.40
Turkey Lira	6000	5400
USA \$	2.01	1.85
Yugoslavia Dnr	27.50	20.50

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as quoted by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)

Job fears after merchant bank fees collapse

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MERCHANT banks have suffered a record slump in fee income in 1990, as the value of public bids fell by 77 per cent to £11.9 billion. A wave of redundancies in corporate finance departments is likely unless business improves.

Fees for merger and acquisitions work in the City fell by more than three-quarters in the year, from a record £800 million in 1989 to an estimated £180 million, according to *Acquisitions Monthly*, the specialist corporate finance magazine. Takeover activity fell to its lowest level in seven years.

There were 139 bids for public companies in Britain this year, down from 187 in 1989. Only three were worth more than £500 million. Northern Telecom's offer for STC, the British Coal Pension Funds bid for Globe Investment Trust, and Brierley Investments takeover of Mount

Charlotte. In 1989, there were 19 bids above £500 million. The slump also hit companies on the Unlisted Securities Market, where there were less than 100 deals, compared with an average of 350 over the last three years.

Philip Healey, editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, said that merchant banks are already letting some senior staff leave quietly. "There is a great fear that unless the situation improves, there will be merchant bankers laid off for the first time in history," he said.

Mr Healey said the banks most at risk were the recent arrivals in the City which did not have established client lists. "A lot of smaller houses have deals dropping in their laps in the last three years. They are finding it most difficult now."

The downturn has caused a shake-up in the league table of leading advisers. SG Warburg, the bank that led the table last year, has slipped to eighth place after doing 12 deals

worth £1.52 billion. Last year, it advised on 36 deals worth £26.2 billion. This included its work on the defence by BAT Industries against a £13.4 billion bid from Hoylake, worth more than the total merger activity in 1990. During 1990, Warburg's corporate finance team was instead involved in a series of corporate rescues, including its unsuccessful attempts to save British & Commonwealth and Colonnor from administration.

Baring Brothers has shot to the top of the table, up from fifteenth place last year. The bank advised on ten bids worth £3.95 billion, including three of the five largest. Morgan Grenfell also bucked the trend, rising from seventh place to second in the first year of ownership by Deutsche Bank. The bank worked on 14 deals valued at £2.48 billion.

The year has been particularly bad for the American banks, with Shearson Lehman, Bankers Trust and Wasserstein Perella dropping out of the first 15. Last year, they were fourth, eighth and twelfth respectively, mainly due to their work on bids for Gateway and BAT.

They have been replaced by a resurgence among British banks. Barclays de Zoete Wedd was the fastest rising house, moving to fifth place from nineteenth in 1989. BZW advised on 19 deals, including the Coal Funds' successful £1.1 billion offer for GLE. Robert Fleming and Hill Samuel regained the top 15, at tenth and fourteenth.

1990 M & A FINANCIAL ADVISERS IN UK PUBLIC TAKEOVERS

	No of deals	Value (£m)
1 Baring Brothers (15)	10	3,953
2 Morgan Grenfell (2)	14	2,477
3 Lazard Brothers (2)	18	2,273
4 Goldman Sachs (5)	3	2,097
5 Barclays de Zoete Wedd (18)	19	1,919
6 Schroders (6)	13	1,887
7 Samuel Montagu (13)	16	1,780
8 SG Warburg (1)	12	1,528
9 NIM Rothschild (11)	7	1,074
10 Robert Fleming (17)	7	923
11 Hambros Bank (5)	7	844
12 AB Hambro Morgan (14)	3	827
13 Kleinwort Benson (10)	12	797
14 Hill Samuel (19)	8	626
15 Merrill Lynch (-)	2	358

Capel sees 2.2m jobless

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE deepening recession in Britain will lead to the loss of more than 400,000 jobs in the next 12 months, according to forecasts from economists at James Capel, the broker.

The firm predicts that unemployment will rise from its current level of just under 1.8 million to more than 2.2 million by next December. The cuts will be forced on companies as they attempt to reduce debt burdens accumulated in the Eighties.

This will make 1991 "a very difficult year" for the prime minister and Norman

Lamont, his Chancellor, says James Capel.

"The recession could not have come at a more inauspicious time either for Mr Major, who has to call a general election in the next 18 months, or Mr Lamont, who has to preside over a slump in

activity in the run-up to an election," it adds. "The recession says the traditional pre-election Budget spending boost should be ruled out as a stimulus of the kind would feed directly into the trade figures, leaving the pound vulnerable."

Instead, Mr Lamont will concentrate on reducing interest rates, which should help produce a sharp fall in inflation. This would set the scene for a possible October general election, but leaving the option of June 1992 in an improving economic climate.

JOBLESS FORECAST (increase in 1991)

James Capel	400,000
Philip & Drew	500,000
Goldman Sachs	400,000
Barclays	100,000
London Business School	100,000
CBI	300,000
Treasury assumption (average for year)	unchanged

German call to cut public sector deficits

HELMUT Haussmann, Germany's outgoing economics minister, has called for quick cuts in public sector deficits to ensure dependability and continuity in the economy.

With new public sector borrowing expected to rise to DM140 billion in 1991 from DM115 billion in 1990, Bonn must cut the deficits or face monetary tightening.

Herr Haussmann said budgetary discipline should be coupled with defence cuts, lower unification costs and increased privatisation. Germany's gross public sector borrowing will jump next year to DM280 billion from DM160 billion in 1990.

In eastern Germany, more than 226,000 new businesses registering in the first ten months of this year.

Japanese stand a £20bn round

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO does not go very far in Japan, where dinner with an important client can run to £250 a head and nearer to £1,000 with a really important client.

A round of golf, including a night at a local hotel to prepare for an early start, perhaps even the hiring of a helicopter, might set the host back £2,000. But at the end of the day, he will have traded in a business contact for a lifelong golfing friend. Golf is extremely expensive. Even if the price is no problem, the crowds are.

Obligation demands that whoever paid the bill this time will be the guest next time, guaranteeing steady business for the mama-sans who preside over restaurants and exclusive bars. Some are so exclusive that a recommendation is needed to gain

entrance because bills are sent to the office and settled without quibble. Whether at the dinner table or at the 19th hole, no business is discussed. It is an occasion for getting to know each other. Japanese companies generally hold 14 tea-drinking sessions just to finalise next month's stationery order. Getting to know a businessman from a company with whom one may be dealing for generations is treated as a serious affair.

American Express concurred in a report that "while a business lunch is a common form of entertainment in the United States and Europe, the cost of entertaining in Japan is extremely high and the management of such expenses is rather loose."

American Express says Japanese companies spend about three times as much on entertainment as their American counterparts and 15 times as much as British companies.

The ¥4,977 billion spent by Japanese firms on entertainment last year was 9.4 per cent higher than in the previous 12 months. The wholesale industry spent ¥891.1 billion and the construction industry ¥866.2 billion.

Belt-tightening is unlikely. Entertainment expenses are regarded as a socially accepted supplement to junior workers' modest pay packets. Their bosses also prefer to spend company money securing corporate friendships than cutting back, only to hand it over in higher corporate taxes.

Investors flee US markets

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

BRITISH and Japanese investors have been deserting American shares and bonds at near record levels during the first nine months of this year.

Even the Americans are more attracted to foreign markets than their own. Drawn by high interest rates and strong foreign currencies, they have bought a record amount of overseas debt in the first nine months of this year.

According to Ivory & Sime, the Scottish investment manager, more problems than solutions are looming on Wall Street, now the second most expensive market in the world after Japan and selling at 14 times last year's earnings with little likelihood of profits growth this year.

American Securities Association figures show that if the selling trend has continued by the end of 1990, non-Americans will never have owned fewer American equities and bonds by value. Purchases of American corporate debt will have fallen to their lowest levels in seven years.

Foreign investors had been net sellers of shares for eight consecutive months until July when it looked as though the trend had turned, but investors fled again in August on the worsening Middle East events.

The investors have sold \$9.2 billion worth of American shares so far this year. They bought a net \$10.8 billion in the same period in 1989.

New CBI fears of industrial damage

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN risks further damage to its industrial base from the marked economic downturn, the Confederation of British Industry says today.

In a new year message, Sir Brian Corby, president of the CBI, agrees with the government that beating inflation is the economic task with the greatest priority next year. He says that output, exports, productivity, investment and employment have all been at or near all-time highs this year, but that view alone "does not reflect the marked downturn in the second half of the year which will continue into 1991".

Sir Brian says: "Retrenchment is a theme as businesses cut costs and try to improve cash flows. There is a real risk that further damage will be done to our industrial base."

This links the downturn with the recession of the early Eighties, widely seen as having that effect, especially on manufacturing. Sir Brian's view is in line with the increasing pessimism among economic forecasters.

He says that while the inflation rate is now falling, industry's major concern is to get it nearer to and keep it at the levels of Britain's European competitors.

Strong support for the transfer of financial responsibility for education from local to central government is given by business leaders, according to a survey published by the Institute of Directors today. Transferring

Matsushita completes MCA deal

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

MATSUSHITA has completed its \$6.13 billion offer for MCA, the American entertainment group that owns Hollywood's Universal Studios. The takeover is the biggest by a Japanese company in America.

Matsushita speaks for 77.7 million MCA shares, or 97 per cent of outstanding shares. The Japanese electrical company said MCA would start operating as a wholly owned subsidiary within two weeks.

The completion followed rejections by two judges on Friday of late attempts to block the deal. The cases were viewed as the final hurdles to the takeover. The supreme court turned down a request by Go-Video to stop the deal. The maker of video cassette recorders had said the deal broke anti-trust laws.

In Los Angeles, a federal district judge rejected the claim by a shareholder who claimed Lew Wasserman, MCA chairman, was given preferential treatment. Mr Wasserman receives \$342 million in shares and a five-year contract for \$3 million a year to head the film, television, record and theme park group.

The plaintiff contended that shareholders were not offered the chance to swap their shares for Matsushita stock, as Mr Wasserman was. The deal allows him to avoid paying about \$109 million in capital gains tax.

Other shareholders will receive \$66 a share in the tender offer. Stockholders also will receive shares in WWOR-TV, MCA's television station in Secaucus, New Jersey, valued by analysts at \$5 a share.

MCA shares closed on Friday at \$69.125, up 62.5 cents.

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Tunnel of dreams rescues disastrous year

Matthew Bond charts the thrills and spills of a year that most businessmen would prefer to forget, and bestows brickbats and bouquets on the winners of *The Times* Alternative Business Awards

In financial terms at least, 1990 has been a year marked more by disaster than success.

Triumphs have been few and far between and, therefore, all the more worthy of celebration. Our Businessman of the Year was not immune from the pressures that claimed a steadily growing list of casualties during the year. For 11 of the 12 months of the year, he, too, sailed perilously close to massive financial disaster.

But then, shortly after 11 o'clock on December 1, failure turned to success. The Channel tunnel, a dream for more than 200 years, had become a reality. It was an occasion marked in curious fashion, with puzzled television viewers watching a khaki-clad French *derrière* becoming firmly stuck in the narrow, but historic, hole that now joined Britain and continental Europe.

Thank heaven, though, for different weather on either side of the Channel. The strong winds, that for the very first time blew under the sea rather than over it, rescued the occasion from falling into farce.

So, for making the hairs on the backs of millions of television viewers' necks stand on end, this year's award goes to the newly knighted Alastair Morton, chief executive of Eurotunnel, developer of the Channel tunnel project, out of the financial hole that threatened to bury them both. Now armed with £2.1 billion of new loans and more than £500 million of fresh equity, he and the project look assured of success, at least in getting it finished. Getting it working will be a rather different prize in the 1993 awards.

Runner-up to Sir Alastair was Anthony Tennant, who continued to show that indemnities are not a pre-requisite for making money out of Guinness shares. A supplementary award for Bravest Businessman of the Year goes to Paul Reichmann, president of Olympia & York.

Sir Alastair and Mr Reichmann take big risks. The difference is that Mr Reichmann — in the main — risks his own money. During the year, it became clear that the Reichmann family had invested more than £1 billion in the towering Canary Wharf development in London's Docklands.

Shortly before the end of the year, the Reichmanns finally off-loaded £500 million of that debt on to ten banks, but then promptly signalled their intention to invest the recovered money into phases two and three of the project. To carry on building huge amounts of office space in the face of the worst property market for decades is one of the greatest counter-cyclical gambles London has ever seen. Our award is for bravery, others will doubtless have alternative suggestions. Recycled Certificate for the Environmentalist of the Year. Informed sources are already tip-



Names in the news: Asil Nadir (Polly Peck), Garry Weston (ABF), Sir Alastair Morton (Eurotunnel), Sir James Goldsmith, Sir Terence Conran (formerly of Storehouse) and Sir Ralph Halpern (formerly of Burton)

ping Friends of the Earth or Greenpeace as possible takeover targets in 1991. Doing the bidding, of course, will be Sir James Goldsmith, who announced he was giving up a lifetime of corporate deal-making to concentrate on saving the environment. Goldsmith watchers are sceptical.

Noting that Sir James marked his retirement by selling his forest products company to Hanson, dealers now expect Sir James to move back into timber at a bargain basement price. A multi-billion dollar break-up bid for the Amazon rain forest is expected in the spring.

The Andy Warhol Award for Most Notable Brief Appearance — In the junior section, the prize goes to Spencer Trethewey, the 19-year-old property developer who

'Morton spent 1990 successfully jack-hammering himself, and the project, out of the huge financial hole that threatened to bury them both'

"rescued" Aldershot football club with a £200,000 cash injection. Mr Trethewey's directorship was suspended in November, after it was suggested that what money he had put into the club had been borrowed from a fellow director.

Winner of the senior award is Jeff Reynolds, the Texan businessman, who claimed in January that he was going to rescue the ailing Bond Corporation by a cash injection of £121 million. Less than two weeks later, it became clear that Mr Reynolds was one cowboy who would not be riding to Mr Bond's rescue.

Silver Spoon for Long-term Investor of the Year. Three years after the stock market

crash stymied a £767 million bid for Berisford, ABF's Garry Weston finally got his hands on British Sugar, Berisford's most prized possession. In December, Berisford announced that it was selling British Sugar to ABF for £880 million.

Securing British Sugar offered ABF some consolation for the losses it has incurred on its 23 per cent stake in Berisford. However, there was no such consolation for Larry Goodman, the Irish beef baron. The losses he made on his Berisford stake prompted his bankers to call time.

Short-term Investor of the Year Asil Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck International, picks up this award for his brief attempt to take Polly Peck private. On August 12, Mr Nadir, unexpectedly announced plans to bid for Polly Peck.

The news put 50p on the price of Polly Peck shares, which closed that Monday at 448p. But six days later the shares were in reverse as Mr Nadir, apparently bowing to pressure from institutional shareholders, withdrew his bid.

The shares fell to 324p on the news. Polly Peck shares were eventually suspended a month later at 108p.

Pensioner of the Year In the retail sector, it was a year of notable farewells. Sir Ralph Halpern, of Burton Group, finally called it a day. His only compensation was £1.4 million in deferred bonuses, £600,000 compensation for loss of office and a pension for life of £456,000 a year. There was not a dry eye in the house.

Sir Ralph narrowly won from Philip Birch, former chairman of Ward White, the retail conglomerate that was taken over by Boots last year for £900 million. After a legal battle, Mr Birch eventually settled for a £2 million pay-off and a £350,000 a year pension.

Third place went to Sir Terence Conran, who had what football commentators would describe as "a nightmare" in 1990. Not only did he step down from the chair at Storehouse in May, but he also ended the year watching his pet property project, Bullers Wharf, go into administrative receiver-

ship with debts of more than £50 million.

However, judging by the Christmas queues at the Conran Shop, which he bought from Storehouse for £3.5 million, Sir Terence could live to fight another day.

Poisoned Chalice Award To Lawrence Cooklin, who succeeded Sir Ralph Halpern as chief executive of Burton Group.

The Steve McQueen Christmas Award Ephraim Margulies.

The Charles Saatchi Award for Who Is Not Working. There has not been much for Charles and Maurice Saatchi to smile about this year — nor, indeed, for their new third *frère* Robert Louis-Dreyfus, who now runs the loss-making advertising group.

But just before Christmas, there

was news that must have brought them more than a little seasonal cheer. At the hitherto unstoppable WPP, Martin Sorrell, the former Saatchi finance director, was forced to pass WPP's interim dividend.

The Sir Robert Armstrong Award for Company Announcements Step forward Citygrove, the erstwhile property developer. On July 9, after its share price had, in two days, moved first sharply lower and then equally sharply higher, the company issued the following statement:

"The company does not know of any reason why these fluctuations occurred. It believes that its share price is at an excessively

high discount to last reported net asset value. Although it is finding trading difficult at the current time, the company is considering certain measures which will assist development of core business."

Three weeks later, David Woolf, chairman and chief executive, resigned. A further statement from the company warned of substantial losses. On August 24, KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock was appointed receiver.

Apart from those minor events, there was, of course, no reason for the share price to move.

The Directory Enquiries Award for Best Use of the Telephone Goldman Sachs, the American owned securities house, has won this award but has yet to be informed.

When *The Times* rang to tell the company of its success, no one answered the telephone. Share dealers had similar problems in June, at the expiry of index traded options and futures contracts.

As the contracts expired, there was confusion in the underlying equity market, most notably at Goldman Sachs, which at one stage had its screens displaying higher buy prices than other market makers were selling at.

When dealers rang to take advantage of Goldman's largesse, many complained that their calls were left mysteriously unanswered. A week later, an International Stock Exchange enquiry found Goldman not guilty of rigging the market.

The Buster Douglas Award for Boxing Comebacks No real competition here. The prize goes to George Walker, who struggled back on to his feet after being out on the canvas for one of the longest counts in the corporate game. Now back in full training, but presumably keen to avoid a rematch until fully fit.

Red Braces (Faces?) Award for Deal of the Year To Kleinwort Benson, for the single trade in Premier Consolidated shares which wiped out half group profits for 1990.

Other strong contenders for the cherished award were Legal & General, Commercial Union, General Accident, and Chase

Manhattan, which all bought stakes in Levitt a few months before its collapse. Highly commended, however, must be Berisford's decision to invest in New York property, which at the last count had cost Berisford more than \$400 million and brought the company to its knees.

Indeed, Berisford would have won the award but for a judge's ruling that although the full scale of the damage only became apparent this year, the fateful investment decision was made some years before.

Sale of the Century Prize To Prudential Assurance, for the disposal of its estate agency chain that cost it three years and £330 million to assemble. In July, the Prudential announced it was closing 175 offices and axing 500 staff.

Mick Newmarch, chief executive,

and Polly Peck. It finished up, once again in the firing line, as auditor to the Levitt Group. To top it all, in November, its American associate Lavenhol Horwath went bankrupt. Next year can only be better.

The Keith Best Award for Broadening and Deepening Share Ownership To the retired property developer who, quite legally, put in more than £100,000 to the electricity float and never saw a single share.

Scoop of the Year To Her Majesty's Stationery Office which in May published the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report that blocked the Kingfisher bid for Dixons.

The problem was that HMSO published the report one day before the Department of Trade and Industry expected it to. This mistake landed the DTI with a £575,000 bill to compensate institutions which had dealt in the shares not knowing the report was available.

Mushroom Growers School of Management Award for How Not to Treat Your Shareholders Once again, George Walker was in the frame for this one, with details of Brent Walker's £103 million convertible bond issue conspicuously thin on the ground. What details there were took a long time in coming.

But the outright winner has to be Irving Scholar of Tottenham Hotspur, who not only failed to tell shareholders about the talks he held with Robert Maxwell over the summer, but also failed to inform his fellow directors. Subsequently, he was shown the red card and banned from the boardroom.

The Cuckoo Clock Award for Timing Robin Power, chairman of Power Corporation. In April, Mr Power let it be known that he was going into business with Donald Trump, the American billionaire. Together they planned to bring the Trump Tower concept to London. Two weeks later, Mr Trump announced the first of the emergency asset sell-offs that were to keep him busy for the rest of the year.

said: "We are reacting to events in what we regard as the most appropriate way. You would hardly expect us to sit on our hands."

Six months later, Mr Newmarch got off his hands again to dumbfound the City by announcing that the Prudential was to sell the 500 remaining branches. The Pru is expected to recoup about £80 million from the sale.

The Golden Abacus Award for Services to Auditing Stoy Hayward, Britain's tenth largest firm of accountants, which spent 1990 watching its clients fall by the wayside.

The casualties included Sock Shop, Citygrove, Astra Holdings,

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Winds of change blow through Lloyd's

THE year at Lloyd's began and ended with storms. The tempests were related, though very different in character, and both are likely to have long-term consequences for the market.

In January, the windstorm that, after 1987, was not supposed to happen for another 200 years blew through Britain and northern Europe. Although an exceptional event in itself, it was only one in a long succession of natural and man-made catastrophes since 1987 that are now certain to send Lloyd's into losses for the 1988 and 1989 years, and in all probability, 1990 as well.

The storm hastened the virtual demise of the London excess of loss (LXX) market, an area of business in which most Lloyd's non-marine syndicates had become involved during the relatively disaster-free years of the early and mid-Eighties. But as the year progressed and the catastrophe loss estimates mounted, increasing numbers of syndicates either withdrew from LXX, were taken over or simply folded. Deprived of

this safety net, direct insurers and primary reinsurers were forced to face up to the harsh reality of taking catastrophe risks on to their own books. The result? Insurance premium rates spiralled 300 to 400 per cent and there was a great deal of panic during the policy renewal season in the final weeks of the year. This was the second great storm to hit Lloyd's during 1990.

For the optimists, including David Coleridge, the incoming chairman of the 303-year-old society, the hardening reinsurance rates mark the start of the next great upswing of the insurance cycle. For pessimists, the already punch-drunk market was dealt blows by the events of 1990 from which it may never fully recover.

There was certainly plenty of other evidence to suggest that the problems at Lloyd's run so deep that an unprecedented period of reform will be required if it is to retain its position in global insurance. Virtually every week brought news of disputes and litigation between names and members and managing agencies as well



Weathering the storms: David Coleridge, of Lloyd's

as continuing name resignations. Although they were not "malpractice" stories of the type that scarred the market in the early Eighties, the steady drip feed of bad news has undoubtedly demoralised many existing names and scared off potential members.

Central to the future prosperity of the market is finding a solution to the open years problem.

The last 12 months have seen writs served for negligent underwriting against managing agents and members agents by the Pulbrook,

Warrior and Outhwaite names, who are all facing huge losses, largely as a result of American pollution-related claims. These highly complicated cases will trundle on at the usual snail's pace throughout 1991, providing further highly unwelcome publicity.

Nevertheless, the wider open years problem came a step closer to resolution towards the end of the year when Lloyd's announced it was setting up a specialist reinsurance vehicle to quote rates for closing open years. Scptics deride the move as a sticking plaster to cover a gaping wound. They claim that only the abandonment of unlimited liability itself will provide a long-term answer to the market's inability to attract new capital. This one will, as they say, run and run.

Happily, 1990 saw no repetition of the scandals of previous years, when a looser regulation regime allowed the dividing line between market practice and sharp practice to become blurred to the point of invisibility.

Despite all the negative

publicity, Lloyd's also saw a steady stream of modernisations, reforms and improvements of market practice, such as the introduction of personal lines for the first time in Lloyd's history when some motor syndicates began offering their products direct to the public. Another significant move was the link-up with Sun Alliance in a bid to secure new business in Europe, widely seen at Lloyd's as the market's future. Many welcome the election of David Coleridge and his radical vision of an internationally competitive Lloyd's.

Even so, 1990 will not be remembered as a particularly happy year in Lime Street. It ended on a sour note with public claims from one group of names that "Lloyd's stinks" and the depressing news that losses from the savings and loans debacle in America may hit Lloyd's on a large scale.

Lloyd's remains one of the most mysterious and tradition-bound institutions in Britain. It must adapt to survive.

JONATHAN PRYNN

American Express Personal Reserve Overdraft Account

With effect from 1st January 1991 the rate of interest applicable to American Express Personal Reserve Overdraft accounts will be increased to 2.10 per cent per month, and the Agreements with all holders of such accounts will be so varied.

Effective Annualised Interest Rate 28.3 per cent

CARDMEMBER FINANCIAL SERVICES

American Express Bank Ltd
Incorporated in England and Wales, at the City of London, U.K.

French with tears, fluency and friends

Ten-year-olds are crossing the Channel and immersing themselves in another tongue.

Hugh Thompson on the language of success

Rachael Knowland, aged ten, left her farmhouse home in Suffolk and went to live at Mathilde Charnot's home in Normandy for six months. She came back after spending a term at Mathilde's school in France, fluent in French and considerably more confident.

For the next six months, Mathilde was a guest at Rachael's house and spent a term at the local Debenham primary school. Both girls belong to the 50 families a year who, for the past 12 years, have been taking part in the most radical foreign exchange scheme. *En Famille* intends to link not just children, but families.

The organisation was set up in 1978 when Jacques Pinault, an English teacher from Bordeaux whose wife is English, decided that the exchanges took place too late in children's lives and did not last long enough to have an "immersion" effect. He set up an exchange system initially designed for ten-year-olds, but now available for nine to 13-year-olds.

Eleonora Knowland, Rachael's mother, heard about the scheme from a friend. "It seemed a great opportunity," she says. "I believe it is very important to learn European languages. The sooner you do it, the easier it is. Rachael is very outgoing and her school was approving, so the deal was on. 'We get on so well with Mathilde's family that not only have the two children spent that first year together but they also spent all last summer together. We have been over to stay with them and next February we are all going skiing. I would like my younger son, Tim, to do the exchange, but he is not interested. Only a certain kind of child can take it.'

"Rachael hated the first two months and although I had a few qualms about sending her off, we knew that if it were really bad we could fish her out. In the beginning, she preferred the school to the family because this put her under less one-to-one pressure."

Maria Heart is the chairman of *En Famille* in England and the deputy head of Tiverton comprehensive in Devon. The organisation, which is non-profit-making, charges £300 for every exchange to cover administration, travel expenses for the agents, telephone bills and a gift to the host school. Families involved pay their travel expenses themselves and their guests' expenses.

Mrs Heart says: "At present we have 32 children from Britain and ten from Ireland on the scheme. More French than English families are interested. The scheme is not for every child or every family. Some families pull back when they realise that for six months they will be adopting another child who cannot speak English."

"We make everyone interested fill in a detailed form to make them realise what is involved. Every family is interviewed. Some schools worry about the disruptive effect of a small child who does not speak English and may be homesick."

When Alex, Mrs Heart's nine-year-old son, played host to Bruno from Paris, his teachers at Cowley Moor primary worried about the disruptive element the French child's extra needs would have. "However," Mrs Heart says, "after four weeks, Bruno started to communicate. In the end, the school admitted he was a joy to

"Some people may think that sending children of that age away is terrible"

have and added greatly to the class environment.

"Three-quarters of the children in the scheme go to state schools. Some people may think that to send children of that age away for six months is terrible, but children go to boarding schools when they are eight," she says. "The scheme



Friends without barriers: Rachael Knowland (left) and Mathilde Charnot learnt each other's language

insists the parents travel with their children. It is all right, if parents, after experiencing the other family first-hand, take their children home with them, with no exchange having taken place."

One problem is that families do not always maintain contact, but *En Famille* has a scheme that tries to bring "orphan" families together, so they keep up the connection with the other country. Mrs Knowland says: "We were lucky in that we have a lot in common with the Charnots. We are both farming families and we are very open type of people."

Betty Connors, the Suffolk representative of the scheme, says: "We first heard of it through a cousin who had read about it and sent her daughter. This girl was very allergic and we thought it would be a disaster. In fact, it was a great success."

"So we talked about it with our

daughter, Rachel. It all went so well with her that my son, David, is exchanging in September with the same family."

"When I interview interested families, I make sure they are aware of what they are doing. I have five children and work as a

"For the children who can handle this kind of separation I must be in favour"

childminder, but I found having a child in the family who spoke not a word of English stressful and frustrating. I could never be sure that I was doing the right thing."

"When Rachel went to France, she was terribly homesick. I found out later that she hardly spoke a

single word for her first six weeks in France. Now she speaks French without a trace of accent."

"Maele, the child she exchanged with, was the opposite. She could not stop trying to talk."

"The only family with which I have been involved that was turned down was because of the school report. This is an important part of the assessment. In this case, the boy involved was very disruptive at his English school, so we did not see how he was going to cope in France."

Chris Bishop, the headmaster of Sir Robert Hitchens primary school in Debenham, where the Connors and Knowland families sent their children, says: "For the minority of children who can handle this kind of separation and experience, I must be in favour. But it is not for everyone."

En Famille, Farthing, Twyford Place, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6AP.

Beating the cane system

BRITAIN'S first No Smacking Week, which starts today, is the prelude to a campaign to ban caning in independent schools. Corporal punishment was outlawed in the state system four years ago.

Epoch, the pressure group behind both initiatives, estimates that more than 50 schools still use the cane or some form of corporal punishment. The group wants the Children's Act, which will ban physical punishment in private children's homes, extended to cover independent schools.

At present, the schools can cane pupils so long as their fees are not paid by the state and their parents do not object. Many have already abolished corporal punishment, but some advise the fact that they have not.

New goals

THE NUMBER of teachers using the government's placement service to gain experience of business and industry more than doubled during 1990. A total of 15,241 used the scheme, almost two-thirds spending a working week out of school.

Perhaps the most unusual came in the last week of the Christmas term, when Peggy Sleight, a primary advisory teacher, spent a week with Leeds United football club. She studied the club as a business, examined its work with local youth and helped with a match-day crèche.

Paper fame

CHILDREN from the Glapton primary school, in Nottingham, are claiming a world record for a paper chain. They spent three days making the 500m-long chain with 5,000 links. Parts are being sold to raise nearly £300 for needy children.

Name fame

PROFESSOR Malcolm Hart, the Polytechnic South West geologist whose research in microfossils was used to check the path of the Channel tunnel, has had a newly identified species named after him. Found 60 years ago near Plymouth's Eddystone lighthouse, *Paratrochammina harti* has been given its name by scientists at

the Natural History Museum. Professor Hart says: "I have given official names to a number of species myself, but I have never before had one named after me. It is a great honour."

String thing

A YOUNGER class of student will be enrolling at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester next month. Weekly lessons will be given to 25 six-year-olds recruited from



the local community by a team of experienced tutors and post-graduate students. The scheme, modelled on similar ventures in Finland and Texas, is intended to provide new opportunities for the very young, and to improve the training of aspiring teachers of music.

Rodney Slatford, the head of the school of strings, says: "This is a response to declining standards in string teaching within our educational system and to the long-held view that conservatoires do little to train teachers."

Top switch

ONE PARKES will replace another on the Leeds to London run next April. No sooner will Sir Edward Parkes, the vice-chancellor of Leeds university, reach the end of his term of office as the chairman of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals than Lady Parkes will begin a three-year stint in the chair of the National Council for Educational Technology.

Sir Edward will be replaced on the committee by Graeme Davies, the vice-chancellor of Liverpool university, who beat Bristol's Sir John Kingman in an election this month. Professor Davies, a 53-year-old New Zealander, has reached the chairmanship in record time. He became a vice-chancellor only four years ago.

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Al Hashimi can add to Nicholson's recent haul at Cheltenham

Grabel sets sights on Champion tilt

AL Hashimi can continue this season's excellent Cheltenham success of David Nicholson and Richard Dunwoody in the Cleve Hill Handicap Chase today.

Nicholson and Dunwoody have collected four winners from six runners at the last two fixtures on the Gloucestershire course.

Like the majority of the Nicholson-trained horses, Al Hashimi has also shown himself to be in good form. On his seasonal debut he was an impressive 20-length winner from Antinous at Worcester.

On his only other outing, at Newbury, he was far from disgraced when runner-up to Pedestrian, who received 16lb.

However, today, he will have a fight on his hands with New Helen in the field.

This season, New Helen has run some excellent races in defeat. In the Hennessy Gold Cup he was fifth behind Arctic Call and earlier in the Mackeson Gold Cup today's course and distance, the gelding was a promising third to Multum In Parvo.

However, I feel Al Hashimi is an improving young horse and New Helen may now be feeling the effects of a busy season.

Nicholson and Dunwoody also have sound claims in the Lansdown Novices' Hurdle with the dual winner Strong Beau, but on this occasion I

am siding with Yeoman Cricketer. At Worcester, the Buckskin gelding shaped with fifth behind his stable companion, Bollinger.

Nicky Henderson, whose stable is in tremendous form, can strike with Up And Coming in the Dermot Daly Memorial Trophy Chase. Last season, this attractive gelding caught my eye after an impressive victory over Sir's At The Gate at Towcester in March.

The following month he returned to Towcester and put up another pleasing performance when accounting for Tewerell Lad by 20 lengths.

Despite not having had a run this term, it should not detract from the bay's chances as he came to hand first time out last season.

Now that Beech Road has declined a rematch with Run For Free in the Spa Hurdle the Martin Pipe-trained gelding should have a relatively simple task. Since Run For Free beat Beech Road at Haydock, the six-year-old achieved an effortless victory at Chepstow.

Also in that two-mile contest was Do Be Brief, who finished full of running to take third place. Today, the powerfully-built Le Moss gelding is napped to show the benefit of that outing by taking the Robinson Handicap Hurdle.

Another Pipe-trained runner, Kuznaks Nephew, looks the danger, especially now that Do Be Brief is 7lb better off with another of today's rival King's Curate for a neck beating at Ayr last season.

Farmer Bryan can continue Nick Gaselee's excellent strike rate with first-time-out runners in the Pychley Novices' Hurdle at the Ladbrooke line-up. The once-raced Dartmoor gelding showed plenty of promise when fourth in the useful Olveston at Newton Abbot.

Tim Forster, who is also noted for getting his runners ready first time up, can collect with Eastshaw in the Leicestershire Silver Fox Handicap Chase.

General Highway, a bitter disappointment on his last outing at Bangor when pulled up behind Rolling Ball, can make amends on his chasing debut in the Gallowtree Novices' Chase.

At Catterick, Without A Doubt can also make a successful transition from hurdles to fences in the Camp Novices' Chase.

This former useful hurdler has always had the appearance of a chaser and can upset Last Of The Buns who was fortunate to win his latest race at Chepstow after two principal rivals fell at the last fence.

From OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

THE Paddy Mullineux-trained Grabel, Ireland's top hurdler, brought her career earnings to £537,293 by winning the listed Bookmakers Hurdle for the third year in a row at Leopardstown on Saturday.

Lying in second place until taking up the lead at the second last hurdle, the seven-year-old mare was challenged by six lengths from Jennycomequick, who carried her place in the Ladbrooke line-up to Leopardstown on Saturday.

When she won this race for the first time in 1988 she started at odds of 7-1. Last year she was an 11-8 on chance, while this time she was almost unbeatable at 7-2 on.

Her trainer said afterwards that Grabel had returned to Leopardstown in February for the Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle before heading to Cheltenham for the Champion Hurdle.

Arthur Moore, who had two winners on Saturday, Garrydill Mover and The Throw, had a serious disagreement with the stewards following an enquiry into the performance of Grabel and The Life, who finished seventh in the WinElectric Novice Hurdle.

RICHARD Rowe was fined £50 after his riding of Spartan Times in the Philip Cornes Novices' Hurdle baffled both the judge and announcer at Newbury on Saturday.

Rowe pulled up his mount before the fourth last hurdle, but continued to ride his horse over the last hurdle, the course, parallel to the back track. He then rejoined the field to get back to the unsaddling enclosure.

The pair had not jumped any of the last four obstacles but after the first three, Underbitter, Captain Dibble and Otterburn House, were called, the course announcer placed Spartan Times fourth.

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Rowe pulled up his mount before the fourth last hurdle, but continued to ride his horse over the last hurdle, the course, parallel to the back track. He then rejoined the field to get back to the unsaddling enclosure.

The pair had not jumped any of the last four obstacles but after the first three, Underbitter, Captain Dibble and Otterburn House, were called, the course announcer placed Spartan Times fourth.

SELECTIONS	
By Mandarin	
12.45 Yeoman Cricketer.	2.30 Run For Free.
1.20 Formula One.	3.05 Up And Coming.
1.55 Al Hashimi.	3.40 DO BE BRIEF (nap).
Michael Seely's selection: 2.30 Run For Free.	

Michael Seely's selection: 2.30 Run For Free.

Guide to our in-line racecard

112143 6000 TIMES 13 (BF,F,B,S) (M-F,D Robinson) S Hall 13-0

<p>card number. Six-figure form (M-F = fell, pulled up. U = unseated rider. S = brought down. N = slipped up. R = refused. D = disqualified. Horse's name, Day's last cutting: F = firm, G = gallop, H = hood. E = eyedrid. C = course</p>	<p>distance winner. BF = beaten favourite. B = beaten. G = gallop, which is a plus sign. F = firm, good to firm, hard. S = soft, good to soft, heavy. H = hood. E = eyedrid. C = course. Plus sign always follows the horse's name.</p>
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Light start to Coppel's Palace reign

It closed, so the race opened. Palace, in completely unproductive fashion, had the capital for the day lifted themselves into third place and into contention. Their victory at Selhurst Park crowned an unprecedented day for the club.

Before appearing live on television for the first time in a League match, Palace announced that Steve Coppel had, in the morning, agreed to sign his first managerial contract. He decided to end speculation "which has linked me to every vacancy" and tie himself for the next 3½ years.

He stressed that he would consider the contract "worthless" as soon as the club loses

its progressive nature. He need have no fears about the attitude of his own side, which has won seven of the last eight games, although he is reluctant to make any claims about its eventual destiny.

He is still convinced that Liverpool will retain the title. "Traditionally, they always finish above where they are at Christmas," he said. "If I were a betting man I'd still put my money on them." When asked where Palace might end up, he smiled. "I don't know. I've never done this before."

The depth of his squad has yet to be tested. Four of his players were doubtful yesterday and Geoff Thomas, his industrious captain, confirmed that he would be available only an hour before the kick-off. "With all due respect to those in the reserves, we would have been struggling without those four," Coppel said.

At full strength, Palace are

developing into a formidable unit. Their most valuable asset is their collective speed, and nowhere is that more evident than in their front line. It was to be the decisive factor in their first League victory over Liverpool for almost two decades.

A few minutes before the interval, Ian Wright burst explosively past Gary Gillespie and along the byline. His low cross was turned in through the legs of Bruce Grobbelaar by Mark Bright. "That was important," Coppel said. "Otherwise we would have been looking at an

old and familiar script. Liverpool soak up everything you can give them and then they hit you on the break."

During the first half, which he described as "the most enjoyable for a long time", Palace had regularly caused discomfort amid the same sweeper system which was dismantled at Highbury by Arsenal three weeks ago.

Liverpool, who were undone at set pieces during their defeat by Palace in the FA Cup semi-final last April, looked equally vulnerable even in open play. Grobbelaar, who was blamed for the equaliser at Queen's Park Rangers on Wednesday, visibly lacked assurance whenever he was required to catch a cross or a corner.

Liverpool attempted to redress the balance in the second half, but, even though they enjoyed the majority of the possession, they fashioned only one clear opening. Gilles-

pie's downward header at a corner found Ian Rush a few yards out. As Palace stood transfixed, expecting him to be adjudged offside, he turned and shot directly at Nigel Martyn.

Kenny Dalglish later criticised his side's attitude and level of commitment. "We are not firing on all cylinders," he said, "and we are not getting the breaks." They may need them against Leeds United, who are in such sparkling form and he only six points behind, at Anfield tomorrow.

Had Glenn Hysen's apparent foul on the troublesome Wright been interpreted as an offence worthy of a penalty in the closing minutes, the margin of Palace's win would doubtless have been wider. Still, they have come a long way since being humiliated 9-0 at Anfield little over a year ago.

MATCH FACTS	
At Selhurst Park.	Att: 26,280.
HT: 1-0.	CRYSTAL PALACE 1 LIVERPOOL 0
Ref: R Gifford.	
Scorers:	Bright 42
Cautions:	Stanton 71, Nicol 77, Rosenthal 84
Subs:	
CRYSTAL PALACE	
Goal	Crucial
Player	Goal
Marney	1
Hamphrey	2
Shaw	3
Gray	4
Young	5
Thorn	6
Thomas	7
Smith	8
Wright	9
McDonald	10
Unsub: Pardo, Barker.	
LIVERPOOL	
Goal	Crucial
Player	Goal
Grobbelaar	1
Hyman	2
Barnes	3
Moody	4
Gilligan	5
Shilton	6
Houghton	7
Ruff	8
Burns	9
McDonald	10
Rosenthal	11
Unsub: Turner.	

Test of nerves finds England wanting

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, MELBOURNE

IT ENDED in an air of anti-climax, an announcement of regret, and a suspicion of acrimony. There was, after all, no cause for celebration. A second Test of riveting gyrations had only one story-line to offer its audience on the final day, and that was not to the taste of anyone English.

Sunday morning at the Melbourne Cricket Ground had seen an abundance of MCC ties and a strong sense of anticipation. England's batsmen may twice have sacrificed the chance to put Australia out of the game, but the bowlers had twice tugged back the initiative. The equation was now 169 to win, eight Australian wickets left, and the pitch unreliable. An epic climax in prospect.

The finale fell flat. Eight wickets had fallen for 31 runs in an astonishing last session on Saturday. Yesterday, England could not muster a single wicket from five hours of increasingly desperate effort and when, on the stroke of 5pm, Geoff Marsh pushed the winning single, it completed an unbroken and incongruous third-wicket stand of 187 with David Boon.

The regrets were publicly expressed by Graham Gooch, who promptly and properly put the defeat, his first in his last nine Tests as captain, down to "bad batting".

The acrimony came from Philip Tufnell, so irate to be denied his first Test match wicket by a questionable decision that he made his feelings clear to the umpire. It was unwise, it was hot-headed but, most of all, it was representative of the frustrations simmering none too quietly within a team which had threatened an extraordinary triumph over the odds but ended up with a second, cruelly heavy defeat.

Two down with three to play is very close to being a hopeless position for England. Only once in Ashes history has either team come back to win a series after losing the first two Tests, and Bradman's team of 1936-7 is likely to remain unique for the time being. This England side needs to be at full strength to sustain realistic hopes against Australia, and it is surveying another Test, starting in Sydney on Friday, with serious fitness doubts over Allan Lamb and Angus Fraser.

Lamb's batting was sorely missed here, for he plays Bruce Reid as well as anyone. Reid took 13 wickets in the game, the last four for no runs, and did so with hardly a ball swinging. He concentrated on simplicity, angling the ball across the right-handers with slight variations of length and point of delivery. The twinkle of the batting achieved wonders for him.

By Saturday's close, Devon Malcolm, charging in with a rhythm and purpose not previously seen on this tour, had accounted for Mark Taylor and might easily have added Marsh. Fraser had removed the nightwatchman, Ian Healy, and Australian nerves were frayed, as Allan Border confessed. "It was a restless night for most of the boys," he said. "We thought about all



Winners can smile: Border, the Australian captain, centre, congratulates his second Test batting heroes, Marsh, left, and Boon

ENGLAND: First innings	
Player	Runs
G A Gooch	28
M A Atherton	0
W Larkins	64
R A Smith	30
P A J DeFreitas	100
A J Stewart	79
H R Russell	15
P A J DeFreitas	3
A R C Fraser	24
D E Malcolm	6
P C R Tufnell	0
Extras	11
FALL OF WICKETS:	1-12, 2-30, 3-108, 4-152, 5-274, 6-303, 7-307, 8-324, 9-344.
Second innings	
Player	Runs
G A Gooch	58
M A Atherton	4
W Larkins	54
R A Smith	8
P A J DeFreitas	0
A J Stewart	0
H R Russell	1
P A J DeFreitas	0
A R C Fraser	0
D E Malcolm	1
P C R Tufnell	0
Extras	16
FALL OF WICKETS:	1-17, 2-103, 3-115, 4-122, 5-147, 6-148, 7-148, 8-148, 9-150.
AUSTRALIA: First innings	
Player	Runs
G R Marsh	36
M A Taylor	61
D C Boon	28
A R Border	62
D E Malcolm	44
M G Hughes	10
S R Waugh	12
G R Matthews	5
H A Healy	5
M G Hughes	4
T M Alderman	0
B A Reid	0
Extras	32
FALL OF WICKETS:	1-63, 2-133, 3-148, 4-224, 5-284, 6-281, 7-289, 8-298, 9-302.
Second innings	
Player	Runs
M A Taylor	5
D C Boon	79
H A Healy	1
G R Matthews	94
Extras	18
FALL OF WICKETS:	1-9, 2-10, 3-103, 4-250, 5-240, 6-240, 7-240, 8-240, 9-240.

Gooch mediates with umpire over Tufnell

MELBOURNE — England's tour management quietly closed ranks around a distressed Phil Tufnell last night after his Test debut had ended in a regrettable show of penitence (Alan Lee writes).

Tufnell reacted badly when the umpire, Peter McConnell, denied a concerted appeal for a catch behind the wicket. David Boon was on 73 and Australia were 31 short of victory, but Tufnell, who had bowled his left-arm spin consistently well for no reward, was so incredulous that, by words and gestures, he left neither McConnell nor the crowd in any doubt over his view of the decision.

Graham Gooch spoke twice to Tufnell, and, when play

West Indies see their supremacy threatened

THE West Indies command of world cricket is being challenged by both Australia and Pakistan. Australia's two victories against England have lifted them to the top of the table of Test match performances in 1990, and they also managed a home series win over Pakistan.

Although they were unsuccessful in Australia, Pakistan's four consecutive wins against New Zealand and West Indies earlier this winter took them into second place. West Indies, who struggled to beat England and recovered to draw with Pakistan, have to be content with third place, while England's improved showing in the Caribbean and home victories against New Zealand and India secure them fourth place.

New Zealand, the only

England follow lead of Pakistan this season

THE most recent collapse on a par with England's at Melbourne came in Pakistan's Test series against West Indies last month at Faisalabad. Pakistan were 145-4, lost five wickets for one run, and were bowled out for 154.

In the same series at Lahore, West Indies lost their last four wickets for one run as Wasim Akram took four wickets in five balls.

Among other dramatic failures to have occurred in Tests are New Zealand, bowled out for 26, the lowest Test score of all, against England at Auckland in 1954-55.

India have twice suffered: they lost their first four wickets for nothing against England at Headingley in 1952, and their first five wickets for six against England at the Oval in 1952.

CBE for England manager Robson

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BOBBY Robson, the manager of the England football team until July, receives a CBE in the New Year Honours list published today. Robson has been vilified for his football philosophy, had his private life revealed and is now working abroad, and yet he could have been celebrating a knighthood if England had won the penalty shoot-out in their World Cup semi-final against West Germany.

Sir Alf Ramsey, therefore, remains unique as a man knighted solely for his managerial contribution to football. A similar honour bestowed upon Walter Winterbottom, another former England manager, was also in recognition of his work for the Sports Council.

Robson, aged 57, disclosed before the World Cup finals that he had accepted an offer to manage PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch club, at the end of the summer. England's fourth place in Italy was his best achievement in the four competitions he contested under his eight-year management. England's record in the Robson era was 47 wins, 29 draws and 19 defeats.

Peter Shilton, the Derby County and former England goalkeeper, is elevated from MBE to OBE. During the World Cup finals, Shilton set a world record of 125 caps and then announced his retirement from international competition at the age of 41.

George Courtney, from County Durham, the only English referee to officiate at the World Cup, also receives the OBE.

There are awards, too, for England's cricketers. At a time when two successive Test match defeats by Australia have left the English game in a sombre mood, the OBE for Graham Gooch, the England captain, and CBE for Ramnath Shabbu Row, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board for five years until last October, bring some pleasure.

Gooch's recognition acknowledges his outstanding contribution during the past year as England captain and leading batsman. It also completes a remarkable transformation in his career.

Gooch incurred a three-year ban after touring South Africa with the unofficial England side in 1981-2. Yet, from the

Robson New Year honours moment that Gooch was appointed England captain in 1989, he revitalised the side and his own form reached new peaks.

Two of New Zealand's rugby union luminaries, of different generations, receive the OBE: Fred Allen, distinguished both as a player and later as coach, and Wayne Shelford, who was displaced as the All Blacks' captain last summer and who is now playing for England with Northampton.

Nigel Mansell, aged 36, Britain's leading grand prix driver in the eighties, who last summer announced his retirement from Formula One and then changed his mind, receives an OBE.

There are MBEs for athlete Yvonne Murray, Scotland's European 3,000 metres champion, Les Jones, aged 47, from Northern Ireland, the manager of the British men's athletics team which had a record-breaking European championships last summer. John Lyon, aged 28, the St Helens amateur boxer, Margaret Johnston, the Northern Ireland bowls player, and Pauline Edwards, the Olympic archer.

There are OBEs for David Donovon for services to karate and the New Zealander, Peter Blake, who skippered Stenlager 2 to victory in the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race.

Three sporting journeymen are honoured: Brian Ston, the BBC radio commentator, is made an OBE, and Harry Carpenter, BBC Television boxing commentator, and Woodbridge, of the Daily Mirror, is made an OBE.

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